An inter-disciplinary approach to constitutive role of metaphors in "shared knowledge" of China-US trade reationship discourse

ABSTRACT

Shared knowledge, known as "inter-subjectivity" in constructivism and "common-sense" in the post structuralism of international relations, lacks explicit dimensions while explaining the role of "inter-subjectivity" or "common-sense" in shaping state behaviour. Alexander Wendt(1999)'s constructivism of IR emphasizes the agency of actors in inter-subjective meaning-making processes, but downplays the important constitutive status of language and discourse in forming "inter-subjectivity". Post structuralism of IR acknowledges the ontological role of language and discourse, but totally ignores the role of cognition in mean-making processes of "common sense". Also, discourse oriented IR studies lack serious linguistics theory and big quantitative corpus study. By emphasizing the constitutive role of metaphors in forming "shared knowledge" in the case study of Clinton-Jiang dominant discourse, this study tries to briddge gaps in international relations and from conceptual metaphors in discourse

RESEARCH QUESTION

- How metaphors relating to the key words vary across Chinese and English language: Metaphor Similarity VS Metaphor Diffence?
- How Chinese and English metaphors relating to target key words constitute the "shared knowledge" in Clinton-Jiang dominant discourse ?

- **CORPUS**

Chinese simplified language corpus	Political documents	Newspaper
Data source	People Database	People Database

English language corpus	Political documents	Newspaper	Congressional records
Data source	Clinton Library	LexisNexis	Library of Congress

- **CORPUS SIZE**

Corpus data 1993 January 20- 1993 June 04				
	Political documents	Newspaper		Total
Chinese corpus	46,826	47,320		94,146
American corpus	16,476	153,904	Congressional records 24,783	195,163

- **STEP ONE:** Comparing American primary corpus(Political documents and Congressional records) with reference corpus OANC, 541 CKIs are sorted out in Wmatrix with a threshold p < 0.0001; critical G2 value = 15.13. The 541 CKIs are classfied into 8 clusters using Wmatrix and SPSS (Gabrielato 2018):

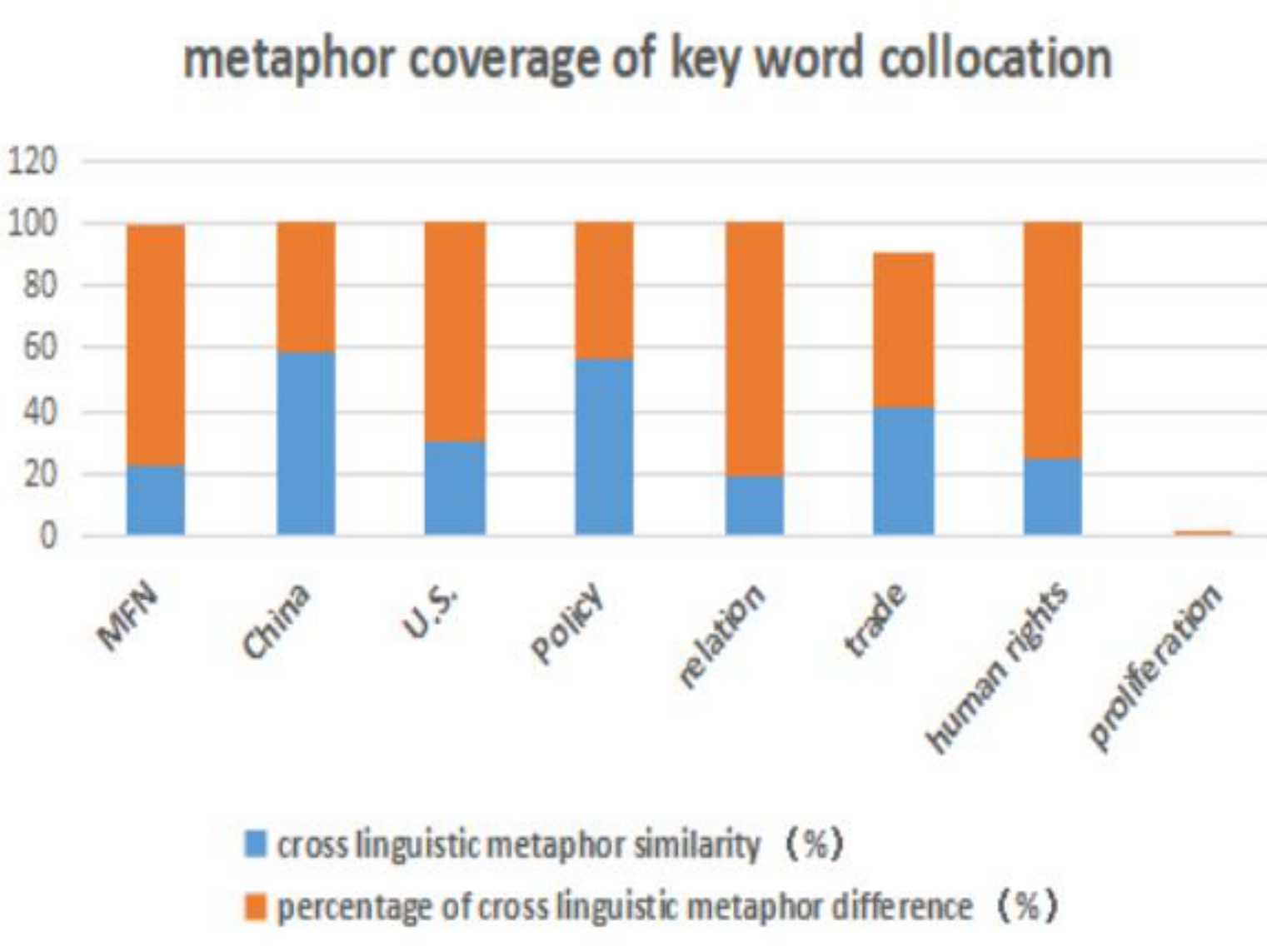| cluster	Keywords	Related Key Items within same cluster
1	MFN	status, treatment, conditions, most-favored-nation
2	China	Communist, government, Beijing, Chinese, United_States-China, regime, leader
3	U.S.	White House, Clinton, Mr._Clinton, Mr._President, President, United_States, American, government, congress
4	policy	policies, decision
5	relation	relationship, relations, bilateral
6	trade	economy, economic, trading, exports, surplus, imports, importation, goods, exported, product, deficit, growth
7	human rights	violations, crack-down, Tiananmen_square , sanctions, prison, release, nation, freedom, democracy, democratic, reform, treatment
8	proliferation	non-proliferation

- **STEP TWO**: identify metaphoric source domain of Keywords in Chinese and American discourse using Sketch Engine
- Metaphor identification method:
- Cameron&Maslen (2010)'s + MIP; adapted MIPVU
- Corpus based reference dictionary: Xiandai Hanyu (XDHY)+ Macmillan dictionary
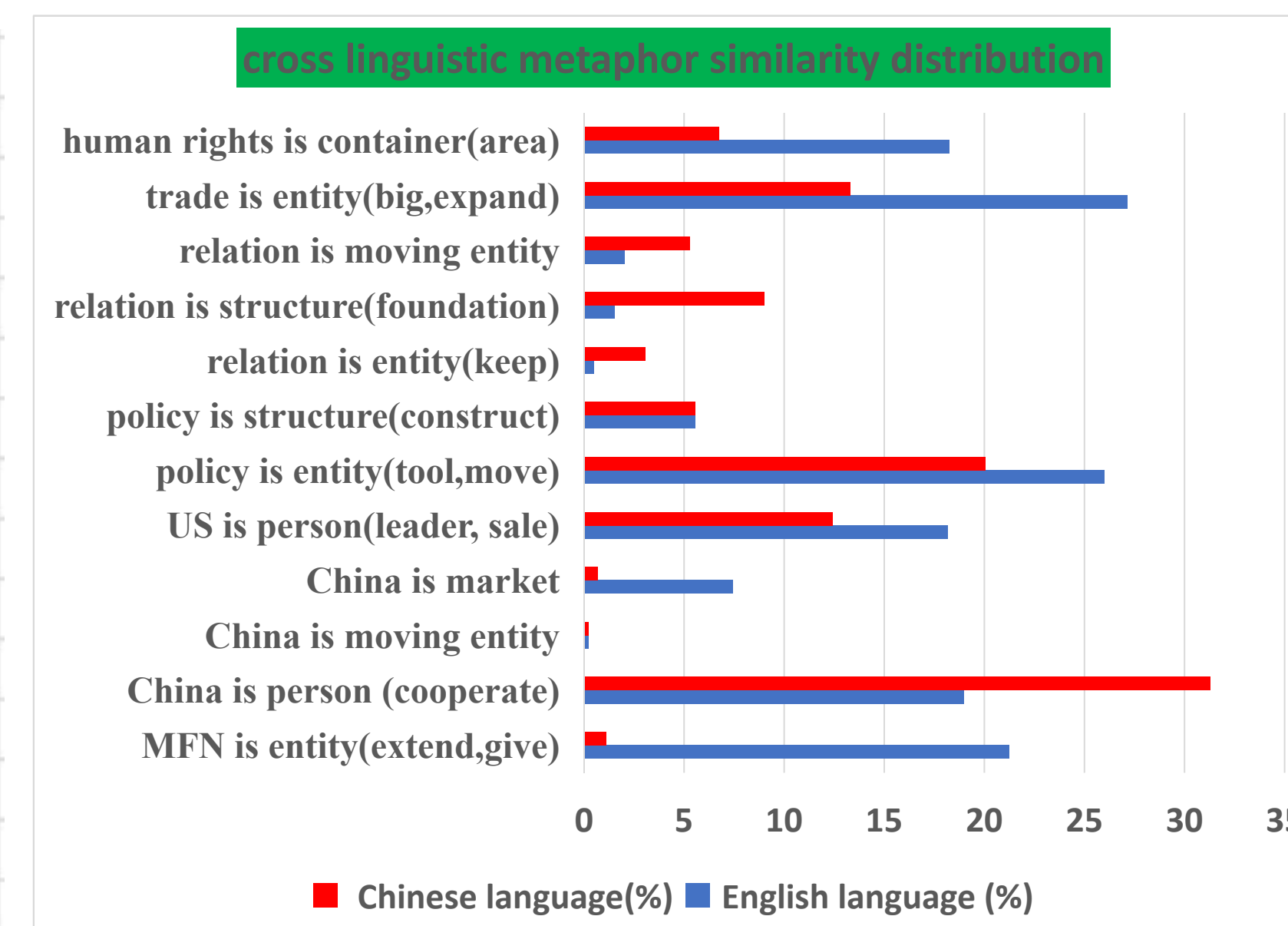- Chinese language Segmentation tool: ICTCLAS

Metaphor distribution in dominant American discourse

■ political (White House) document   ■ congressional record   — newspaper
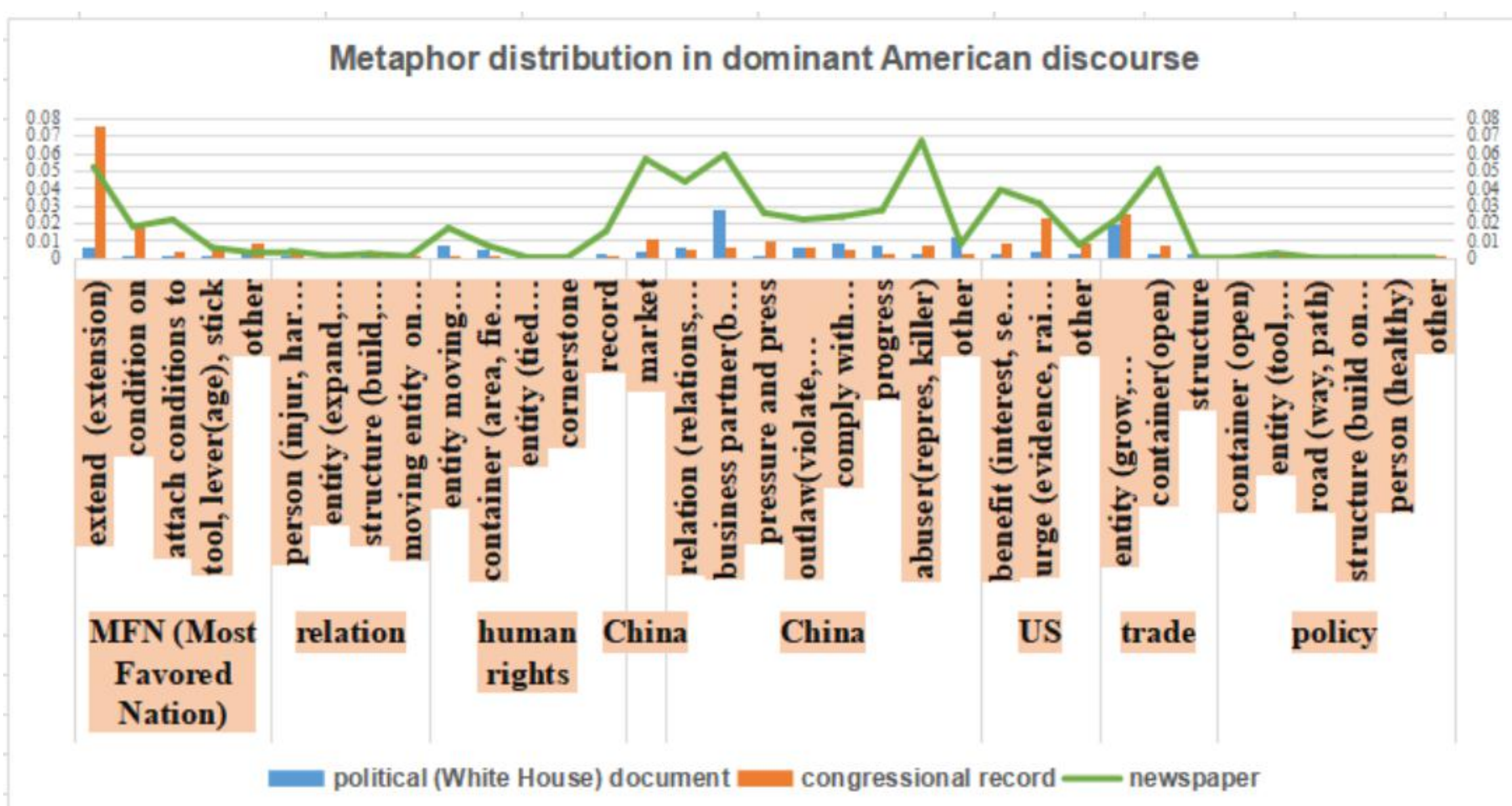
metaphor coding example

Key word	Collocation word	Frequency in Political document	Frequency in Congressional record	Frequency in Newspaper	Conceptual metaphor
Chinese economy	revitalization	1		1	Chinese economy is organism
	grow	1	2	7	
	growth	1		2	
	发展健康 develop healthily	10		1	Chinese economy is person
	毒瘤 cancer	1			
	命脉 lifeblood	1			
	步伐 step	7		5	
	取得成功 achieve success	2		2	
	overheated	1		1	Chinese economy is overheated
	过热 overheated	3			
	boom	1	1	1	Chinese economy is entity
	big(gest)	1		10	
	largest	1		7	
	expand	1	1	6	
	build	1		1	Chinese economy is structure
	collapse	1		4	
	open				Chinese economy is container

metaphor coverage of key word collocation

■ cross linguistic metaphor similarity （%）
■ percentage of cross linguistic metaphor difference （%）

STEP THREE: DATA RESULTS

unique conceptual metaphor in one language		
	English language	Chinese language
MFN		MFN is ground
relation	relation is temperature	
	relation is funnel	
	relation is ground	
human rights	human rights is location	
	human rights is entity	
		human rights is flag
		human rights is structure
	human rights is record	
trade	trade is entity	
	trade is structure	
	trade is container	

cross linguistic metaphor similarity distribution

■ Chinese language(%)   ■ English language (%)

STEP FOUR: INTERPETATION of shared knowledge constituted by metaphors

	shared knowledge within China	shared knowledge within US
MFN- most favored nation	cornerstone for trade	leverage to press China
	foundation for trade relation	conditions placed on MFN
Chinese human rights	保护促进人权 （move Chinese HR forward） 主权是人权的基础 (sovereity is the foundation of HR)	foundation for trade （relation）
	US HR demand is invading Chinese era	needs to be progressed
China- US Trade	foundation for China-US relation	trade deficit needs to be cut
	潜力 potential	instrument to press China, link trade to human rights
China (metaph otonymy)	love peace	violate international rules
	refuse condition	outlaw
	not ambitious to be hegemony power	human rights abuser
	willing to cooperate with U.S.	promise-breaker
US (metaph otonymy)	evil	urge China (to improve human rights)
	superpower	not isolate China

Shared knowledge between China and US		
MFN-most favored nation	positive entity	needs to be extended
Chinese human rights	entity moving forward	has progressed a little
China-US Trade	positive entity	grow, big, benefit, sales rise
	positive entity	expand, move forwrd
China	positive person (metaphotonymy)	customer of the American products
		willing to be a member of international community/family of nations
		willing to cooperate on non-proliferation
		promise to adhere to norms
		reform economically
US	person (metaphotonymy)	positive trade partner
		global leader

Reference

- Cameron, L., & Maslen, R. (2011). Metaphor analysis: Research practice in applied linguistics, social sciences and the humanities. London: Equinox.
- Wendt, A. (1999). Social theory and international politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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