

# A Review of Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Discourse-Based on Chinese and English Literature

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## Abstract:

The discourse of Foreign Ministry spokesperson is one of the research hot spots in recent years. As the fifth female spokesperson in China's diplomatic history, Hua Chunying represents the official image of the Chinese government. She conveys China's voice and attitude by answering Chinese and foreign media reporters' questions at regular press conferences. Most of the research on Hua Chunying is based on the relevant corpus in answering reporters' questions, it is limited to discussing her discourse style and discourse attitude. At present, there is no research that specifically reviews Hua Chunying and her discourse. Therefore, this article focuses on Hua Chunying's discourse in Chinese and English literature, and then conducts a comprehensive investigation of Hua Chunying and her discourse from four aspects: language features, pragmatic strategies, discourse attitudes and refutation of foreign media discourses. By exploring the discussion and evaluation of Hua Chunying in Chinese and English literature, it will enrich the study of Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying's discourse and most importantly it can broaden Chinese and foreign scholars' research on Chinese government discourse.

## Keywords:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spokesperson, Hua Chunying, Discourse, Chinese and English Literature

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## 1. Introduction

The regular press conference of Foreign Ministry Affairs is a key channel for all people to learn about China's foreign policy [13], and it is an important platform for spokespersons to communicate with the outside world [38]. During regular press conferences, the spokespersons transmit and respond to relevant information through interactions with reporters, they act as mediators between the government and the public [19]. Their response should base on the national position, so as to rationalize their stance and maintain China's image and international credibility to the greatest extent [29].

Diplomatic discourse is a kind of political discourse, it refers to the diplomatic parts convey current foreign policy and international strategies' discourse behaviors within a certain period of time, mainly including important leaders' speeches, diplomatic negotiations, press conferences, etc. [5]. At present, scholars have carried out related research on diplomatic discourse from different perspectives, especially the teams led by Yang (2018; 2020; 2021) and Hu (2018; 2020; 2021) have carried out multifaceted research on diplomatic discourse, which makes great strides of diplomatic discourse research. For the research of the Foreign Ministry spokesperson, researchers at home and abroad have different concerns, and for Chinese spokesperson, most of scholars have explored and analyzed spokespersons' answer to reporters' questions. In addition, Western media tend to expose negative reports, so foreign scholars are more or less biased against the discourse of the Chinese government due to their negative citations [5]. Therefore, for the research of Foreign Ministry spokesperson, scholars have made different kinds of negative comments on spokespersons' relevant remarks. They mainly conducted relevant research from the perspective of linguistics, communication and rhetoric, focusing on the pragmatic strategies and language styles of the spokesperson's discourse. Among them, some scholars used corpus to study spokespersons' pragmatic strategies [42,13,2]. Other scholars have systematically studied the language style and language characteristics of diplomatic spokesperson [12,16,1].

Hua Chunying is the fifth female spokesperson in China's diplomatic history. During regular press conferences, she carefully considers her remarks and directly hits the point of questions, she has the unique charm of Eastern women. When answering reporters' questions, she speaks eloquently so that the Chinese and foreign media can feel the spirit of China's great power. However, when foreign media wantonly slander and smear China, Hua Chunying shows her resolute attitude and strongly counterattacks against the distorted discourses, so as to maintain China's national image. At present, there are very few studies on Hua Chunying. Among them, the focus on Hua Chunying has been greatly increased in the master's thesis of universities, and it has become the backbone of Hua Chunying's discourse research. Some researchers have conducted research on Hua Chunying's language strategies, discourse appropriateness and other aspects related to language literacy [44,14]. In the past two years, Hua Chunying's speech has been used to spy on the national image shaped by her words [27,31]. In view of the previous research of the Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying, this article will base on Hua Chunying's discourse in Chinese and English literature, examining the relevant evaluations of Hua Chunying and her discourse by scholars at home and abroad.

## **2. The Research of Hua Chunying's Discourse**

For the research on Hua Chunying, scholars at home and abroad have made different discussions and evaluations. For this article, we will classify and explain from four aspects: Hua Chunying's language features, pragmatic strategies, discourse attitudes and refutation of foreign media discourses.

### ***2.1. Research on Hua Chunying's Language Style***

Generally speaking, spokespersons' words are more rigorous, the words he/she speaks represent the voice of the country. However, spokespersons often use some down-to-earth language to convey their views so that they can shorten the distance with audiences. As a female spokesperson, Hua Chunying has a strong personal

language style, her words are rigid and flexible, with a balance of hardness and softness.

Zhao & Zhan [44] used corpus-based quantitative and textual analysis methods to compare the distribution, similarities and differences of hedges used by Chinese and American spokespersons at press conferences. Comparing the speeches of Chinese and American spokesperson, it can be found that the two sides use more scope restrictions. Hua Chunying is good at using more precise and rigorous words to express her position and attitude, while the US only emphasizes flexibility.

Li & Gan [10] studied Hua Chunying's language style at regular press conferences. It can be found that Hua Chunying has a firm and clear attitude concerning China's territorial sovereignty issues. When dealing with non-existent issues, she will fight back in time, highlighting the characteristics of women's rigidity and softness.

Li [11] explored the main strategies and influences of the spokespersons' emotional communication by analyzing the image constructed by them in the new media. It was found that Hua Chunying often uses traditional expressions that familiar to the public and down-to-earth words to respond to international events, it is conducive to conveying the voice of China. It has created the new image of a warm "diplomatic group", changed public stereotypes about spokesperson. It is beneficial to enhance the guiding force of public opinion as well as the credibility and influence of diplomatic speeches.

Meng & Guo [17] conducted a case analysis of "the US Throwing the Pot" incident during the epidemic by using speech act metonymy theory. They pointed out that Hua Chunying stated objective facts through statements, expressions and commanding speech acts, which can express China's attitude and oppose the US's scapegoating behavior. It allows the international community to know the truth and strives for the dominance of international discourse. It reflects the peaceful foreign policy that our country has always adhered to.

Fan & Wang [1] systematically explored the changes of spokespersons' discourse style since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. They pointed out that spokespersons' style has changed a lot when expounding China's stance. Among them, Hua Chunying's strong counterattack reflects the self-confidence of a great power and a tough stance of unyielding. She also often uses empathy to shorten the psychological distance between the speaker and audiences, so as to arouse emotional resonance.

As a female spokesperson, it can be found that Hua Chunying often expresses her position by expounding objective facts when answering reporters' questions. In addition, she fights back vigorously and take a firm and clear attitude in the face of slandering and smearing China's remarks or violating national sovereignty. Last but not least, she is good at using down-to-earth expressions to narrow the psychological distance with the audience.

## ***2.2. Research on Hua Chunying's Pragmatic Strategies***

In addition to the above research on Hua Chunying's language style, some scholars also study spokespersons' pragmatic strategies in diplomatic occasions. The pragmatic strategies that Hua Chunying often uses mainly include vague language, euphemism, evasive answer, etc. The flexible use of strategies can ease awkward situations and build a good communication atmosphere.

Nikolaeva & Yakovleva [18] explored intercultural communication in China and the rest of the world by using proverbs. Given the appropriateness of proverb citations, the media will consider the informal and culturally-based indirect messages they convey. For example: Regarding Japan participates in the collective self-defense plan and maliciously damaging China's image, Hua Chunying said that any policy adjustment to Japan's military security should not harm China's sovereignty and security interests. She cited the proverb "missing the axe and doubting the neighbor" to show that Japan ignores the facts and it has the purpose of exercising its right of self-defense to distort China's words and deeds. She also used "thief shouting to catch a thief" and "fighting a rake" to comment on the close encounter between Chinese and Japanese planes over the East China Sea, urging Japan to stop provocation, slander and maliciously hype up the China threat theory.

Yang & Wang [33] analyzed the use of euphemisms in diplomatic occasions at home and abroad. They pointed out that diplomatic euphemisms are mainly constructed through fuzziness and substitution, revealing the inherent logic of diplomatic euphemisms and contexts. Among them, Hua Chunying insinuated that the U.S. fabricated lies and wantonly smeared China by using things that westerners are familiar with, this alternative approach not only preserves American face, but also plays a role in expressing China's diplomatic position, which is conducive to creating a harmonious communication atmosphere. On the one hand, spokesperson can safeguard national interests by using diplomatic euphemisms, on the other hand, it avoids unnecessary misunderstandings and disputes. Xie & Liu also conduct related research on diplomatic euphemisms. They [30] explored Chinese diplomatic euphemisms and rhetorical strategies under pragmatic principles, and found that rhetorical strategies such as metaphors, analogies, ambiguity and dictionaries are often used in diplomatic euphemisms. When referring to the MCC agreement, Hua Chunying quoted Greece's hint of disaster and adversity, comparing it to a Pandora's box, reminding Nepal to carefully consider signing the agreement. The use of rhetorical tactics is critical to reducing the irritation and sensitivity of diplomatic discourse, which can facilitate China's diplomatic activities.

Ye & Yang [38] used interactive meta-discourses to answer questions about the epidemic based on the framework of adaptation theory. They found that Hua Chunying uses vague language to leave room for the counterpart in front of the media and prevents the relationship between the two sides from becoming rigid. At the same time, she also uses intervention language to explicitly mention the hearers so as to build an interactive relationship with them. It is beneficial to guide them to understand and accept the spokesperson's view, expand the scope of common knowledge with the audience and narrow the psychological distance.

Zhang [40] mainly explored the evasive answers of spokespersons in regular press conferences when answering reporters' questions. Among them, the first strategy that Hua Chunying adopts is to admit but not answering it. For reporters' questions, she points out that there is no specific information, and for specific questions, it is recommended to ask the directly related departments; The second strategy is to fight back against reporters. For religious-related issues, she fights back against reporters for hyping up mosques in Xinjiang, questions them for not doing some preparations before working, and points out that they must make sure they have the facts when making comments. It is found that spokespersons tend to use covert and overt avoidance to save the face of the country and thus safeguard the national interest.

Zhu [43] used the principles of pragmatics to analyze the spokesperson's answers to reporters' questions, and discussed the influence of cooperation principles, politeness principles and impoliteness principles in diplomatic discourse on the construction of national identity. Hua Chunying paid attention to the principle of quantity and provided complete and accurate information to respond relevant rumors. For remarks that smeared China, she maintained our country's image by emphasizing, exhorting, urging, etc; At the same time, she also followed the principle of quality, for specific questions that she doesn't know, she will stabilize the discourse situation by evasive answers and use various language strategies flexibly.

Ye & Wang [37] used meta-pragmatic awareness and meta-discourse classification to analyze meta-discourse on politeness strategies in Hua Chunying's discourse at regular press conferences, revealing the role of meta-pragmatic awareness in the regulation of meta-discourse use in language selection. Firstly, Hua Chunying often conveys China's intention and position in a straightforward manner; Secondly, she also uses positive and negative politeness strategies to consider the face of the recipient. She softens her tone and adjusts her speech to achieve politeness and meet the needs of both parties; Finally, she uses non-public politeness strategies such as presupposition, exaggeration, metaphor and ambiguity to reduce the degree of face threat in her speech. By doing so, the recipient can identify the speaker's true intention through certain inferences.

Regarding the related research on pragmatic strategies, it can be found that Hua Chunying often uses strategies like vague language, euphemism, evasive answers, metaphors and dictionaries to answer reporters' questions in diplomatic situations. By using various pragmatic strategies flexibly to deal with different problems, it has achieved the purpose of not only retaining the face of the counterpart, but also safeguarding the national interests, which is conducive to building a harmonious diplomatic atmosphere.

### ***2.3. Research on Hua Chunying's Discourse Attitude***

In addition, Hua Chunying has different discourse attitudes when it comes to political, economic, cultural, epidemic and other issues. When facing general issues, her discourse attitude is more easy-going, expressing her willingness to develop together; When facing the issue of maliciously smearing or slandering by foreign media during the epidemic, her discourse attitude is firm and strong, she said that she would treat it in an open and transparent manner. When facing international affairs, her attitude tends to pertinent. She hopes that all countries have friendly exchanges and jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind.

Regarding economic, political and cultural issues, Hua Chunying puts forward the concept of win-win cooperation to promote common development between countries. Malik et al. [15] investigated the access of two nuclear-weapon states of India and Pakistan in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. They believed that India-Pakistan cooperation would promote regional security and strengthen South Asian integration. Among them, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying expressed the hope that India and Pakistan will strictly abide by the SCO spirit of good-neighborliness and friendship to improve relations, so as to inject new impetus into the development of Shanghai, which is of great importance to maintaining friendly relations between China and the two countries and promoting economic development. Shah et al. [22] explored key information about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor from 2015-

2019 in Pakistani newspapers and China Daily, forming broader categories such as development, economic, political, social and strategic. In view of this, using quantitative content analysis to examine how it is covered and handled on its official Facebook page. Hua Chunying said that the economic corridor will play a driving force in connecting South Asia and East Asia, the economic corridor is more strategic than economic in the China-Pakistan newspaper. Hou [3] used data mining, vector algorithms to analyze the relevant topics' comments trend in Twitter's official media during the Winter Olympics. By summarizing the opinions of Internet users, it was found that Twitter users have more negative emotions about the Winter Olympics, and most users have a negative or reserved attitude towards it. Among them, Hua Chunying tweets about Gu Ailing's victory and she is looking forward to her performance in the Winter Olympics, which has received more positive comments. This shows that Twitter users deeply love the image of sports stars, thus they increase the positive feelings on the Beijing Winter Olympics. It was found that foreign users have more negative emotions about the Winter Olympics. Compared with the words with positive emotions, these words with negative emotions often appear with the high-frequency words in the corpus. It shows that most words with negative emotions are not directed at the Winter Olympics, but are related to China's territorial issues and other sensitive topics.

Since the emergence of COVID-19, scholars have carried out relevant research on foreign media about the origin and the anti-epidemic behavior. Hua Chunying also expresses China's attitude and stance on issues related to the epidemic and adopts an attitude of actively cooperating and fighting the epidemic together. Lemus-Delgado [9] analyzed the origin of the new corona virus and used science to give it legitimacy. In response to foreign media's remarks that the Chinese government should be responsible for the emergence of the virus, Hua Chunying said that the Chinese government is open to any investigation and will always support the World Health Organization, we will cooperate with it in an open, responsible and transparent manner. Shih [24] explained China's efforts to repair the dilapidated international image since the corona virus. Chinese president and Foreign Ministry spokespersons speak out through the media and actively adopt assistance strategies to convey the country's voice and attitude to join hands with other countries in the world to fight the epidemic. In this article, Hua Chunying said that China hasn't used the corona virus diplomacy to beautify our own image or expand its influence on other countries. On the contrary, we are willing to share China's good practices and experience with other countries, but we will not turn it into any kind of geopolitical weapons. Shi & Zhong [23] analyzed how the Foreign Ministry spokesperson constructed China's national image with the framework of speech act theory from the perspective of critical pragmatics. Regarding the origin of COVID-19, Hua Chunying said that China has always treated it in an open, transparent and responsible attitude, and we will actively cooperate with the World Health Organization to accept any investigation. She pointed out that the global outbreak of the epidemic requires all countries' experts to strengthen international cooperation, and she hoped that all countries can take a positive attitude and cooperate with WHO to trace the origin of the virus. Through Hua Chunying's attitude of not escaping and cooperating with all countries, we can see that spokesperson builds a national image of seeking truth from facts, taking action, being open and transparent, respecting science and actively cooperating.

Regarding issues related to international affairs, Hua Chunying stated that China will actively respond and jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind

to promote development. Zhang & Orbie [41] used the narrative turning framework in international relations and conducted a comprehensive study of China's climate strategy at different stages from the systematic and national level. They examined how China's climate strategy narrative by using the government and state media's climate discourse coalition. Hua Chunying said that climate change is a global challenge and no country can stay out of it. The Paris Agreement represents the broadest consensus of the international community and sets goals for the global response to climate change, which is contribute to a broader understanding of China's politics and its place in global governance. Semenov & Tsvyk [21] mainly introduced Chinese scholars' understanding of diplomatic discourse. They used sociolinguistics, cognitive linguistics and pragmatics to test the concept of the community with a shared future for mankind, and pointed out that it is the core of China's diplomatic discourse. Regarding this concept of building a common future for mankind, Hua Chunying said that China's ideas have gained more and more support around the world and received more and more responses in the UN agenda. Zhai [39] used the discourse interaction theory to examine the discourse interaction under the territorial disputes between China and Japan, and then explained how the two countries use discourse to pursue security and their respective realist interests. Regarding the dispute over the Diaoyu Islands issue, Hua Chunying points out that China has a number of relevant records showing that the Diaoyu Islands are part of China's territory, which is an irresistible fact. The Japanese side also strives for the Diaoyu Islands to be Japan's territory. From this, it is found that the dispute between China and Japan over the Diaoyu Islands can reveal the purpose of both sides, which is to use discourse attack and defend, it can make the other's arguments illegal and consolidate their own positions.

To sum up, it can be seen that Hua Chunying clearly shows China's attitude and stance when answering reporters' questions. For issues related to politics and economy, she puts forward the concept of strengthening cooperation and good-neighborliness. For issues related to the epidemic, She treats it with a transparent and responsible attitude, and promises that China will work with other countries to deal with it; For issues related to international affairs, she proposes the concept of jointly building a better future for mankind.

#### ***2.4. Research on Hua Chunying's Refute on Foreign Media***

Finally, Hua Chunying strongly fights back against relevant remarks on social platforms or at press conferences when facing with remarks that violate human rights, interfere in China's internal affairs and wantonly smear China. In this way, it can safeguard China's sovereignty and international image.

Among them, some scholars studied the discourses about the "Xinjiang violence incident", so Hua Chunying fought back against such false information. Rodríguez-Merino [20] discussed the changing characteristics of Xinjiang violence incident with the national framework, compared and analyzed two discourse-constructed violent incidents. It was found that violence in Xinjiang as terrorism is accidental, limited and unstable. Hua Chunying described such incidents as violent groups' premeditated attacks, arguing that terrorism will try to continue to destabilize Xinjiang.

In response to the Meng Wanzhou incident and the US interference in Hong Kong's human rights violations. Hua Chunying points out that this behavior doesn't respect China's laws and has a negative impact on China. Silva [25] conducted a case study

of Meng Wanzhou's arrest by using critical discourse to analyze news citations, and then identified three main discourses in her arrest news, finally delved into how these discourses relate to powerful individuals and interest groups at five levels of analysis. Hua Chunying believes that Meng Wanzhou's arrest goes beyond conventional political motives. It is not legal, legitimate and reasonable, it kidnaps and violates Meng's human rights. She believes such action is very arbitrary and doesn't respect China's legal norms. Canada can't stop talking about its so-called legal obligations under its bilateral extradition treaty with the United States, which means Canada turns a blind eye and tramples on international law and basic international norms.

Mao & Zhao [16] studied the discourse process involved in the construction and negotiation of spokespersons' disagreement when confronted with various news issues, and they explored spokespersons' discourse strategies when answering reporters' questions. Among them, the "New York Times" reported that Chinese and Russian intelligence agencies had eavesdropped on Trump's iPhone. Therefore, Hua Chunying issued a satirical statement to counter the report, arguing that some people in the United States spared no effort to compete for the "Oscar Best Screenplay Award" and proposed three ironic suggestions. In response to the Canadian Foreign Minister's statements that Meng Wanzhou was arrested and China's actions against Canadian citizens posed a threat to all countries, Hua Chunying refuted that the Foreign Minister was too anxious to say anything, and saying that Chinese citizens were unreasonably detained by the Canadian, they must have at least the right and wrong standards. Through this kind of divisive behavior, the spokesperson can manage the potential face threat caused by the issue and preserve the country's image. Sullivan & Wang [26] used the actual cases of spokespersons to demonstrate China's diplomatic attitude. For example: the US State Department criticizes the impact of human rights policy on Hong Kong, Hua Chunying responded quickly and directly to the criticism, and then re-positioned the loopholes and inconsistencies of the US in related issues; For Xinjiang cotton incident, Hua Chunying refuted the criticism of Xinjiang policy to criticize the behavior of the United States, she pointed out the fact that the United States forced slave labor in history and expressed support for Xinjiang cotton.

Regarding the Western media's remarks about China's "Wolf Warrior Diplomacy" during the epidemic, Hua Chunying also hits back and argues that foreign media set a discourse trap for China. Yang [31] assessed Sino-US relations during the COVID-19 epidemic, and pointed out that the launch of "Wolf Warrior Diplomacy" has accelerated the transition of US policy towards China from constructive engagement to strategic competition. In response to the wrong remarks about the virus impact on the US economy, Hua Chunying pointed out that the US took the lead in a bad way and asked the US not to overreact, which is very despicable. They should respect and cooperate with China's epidemic prevention work; In response to an column saying that "China is the real sick man in Asia". Hua Chunying questioned the author and denounced his arrogance, ignorance and prejudice, which shows that China has become more confident in defending our national interests. Huang [8] applied cognitive analysis to public policy, explained the institutionalization of government public diplomacy with a historical discourse method and enumerated China's provocative public diplomacy practices to the world since COVID-19. Hua Chunying believes that the foreign media describe this practice as "Wolf Warrior Diplomacy" is a discourse trap tailored for China, which constitutes another version of the China threat theory. Such proactive diplomatic practices will help the Chinese government

to legitimately defend against provocations by Western countries, they are legitimate actions to safeguard China's national image and interests.

Through the research on Hua Chunying's refute on foreign media discourses, it can be found that foreign media have spared no effort to smear China at different levels. They are trying to make the international community and the public accept the image of China rendered by Western media. However, Hua Chunying and other spokespersons refuted and questioned the false remarks in time, so as to maintain China's image as a great power.

### ***2.5. Comparison of Chinese and Foreign Scholars' Viewpoint***

Chinese and foreign scholars have different concerns for the research of Chinese spokesperson Hua Chunying. For the analyzed literature, Chinese scholars pay more attention to the research of Hua Chunying's language style and pragmatic strategies [44,33,1], there are also some foreign scholars pay attention to the use of pragmatic strategies when Hua Chunying answering reporters' questions [18]. Since it is mainly Chinese scholars who have studied Hua Chunying's language style, we will not repeat it here. As for the pragmatic strategies, Chinese scholars mostly explored the use of diplomatic euphemism, vagueness, metaphor and other rhetorical strategies in Hua Chunying's regular press conferences, while foreign scholars explored proverbs that Hua Chunying used. As a spokesperson, it is very important to use various pragmatic strategies flexibly. Hua Chunying is good at using different strategies to safeguard our national interests, which is conducive to building a good communication atmosphere to prevent the relationship between the two parties from becoming rigid. As for the research on Hua Chunying's discourse attitude, Chinese scholars elaborated the negative comments made by Twitter users during the Winter Olympics. Hua Chunying increased foreign users' positive feelings by sending Twitter, which indicates that the spokesperson's remarks play a certain role. As for the epidemic, Chinese and foreign scholars have explored Hua Chunying's response to negative comments, it conveys China's willingness to cooperate with other countries to fight the epidemic together.

In addition, foreign scholars mostly explored issues related to economy and security in foreign media newspaper reports, pointing out Hua Chunying's understanding and views on these reports. Chinese scholars pay less attention on economy, while for security issues, they explore the dispute between China and Japan over the Diaoyu Islands and Hua Chunying provides evidence for such disputes. With regard to issues related to international affairs, Chinese and foreign scholars pointed out that Hua Chunying advocated the idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind and promoting common development.

Finally, scholars studied Hua Chunying's refutable to foreign media. Among them, both Chinese and foreign scholars paid attention to the relevant issues about "Xinjiang violence". Hua Chunying strongly fought back to maintain China's credibility when the foreign media slandered China. What's more, Chinese and foreign scholars pay attention to Hua Chunying's solemn position on different human rights issues, she demonstrates China's diplomatic attitude through statements and other malicious remarks against foreign media. During the epidemic, as for Western media said that China's "Wolf Warrior Diplomacy", Chinese scholars conducted relevant research on the remarks. Hua Chunying pointed out that foreign media set discourse traps and spared no effort to discredit China.

### 3. Conclusions

Based on the discussion of Hua Chunying's discourse in Chinese and English literature, this paper makes a classified interpretation from four aspects: Hua Chunying's language style, pragmatic strategy, discourse attitude and refutation of foreign media discourse.

As for Hua Chunying's language style, it is mainly domestic scholars studied her discourse characteristics when answering reporters' questions at regular press conferences. As a female spokesperson, Hua Chunying's language style is distinctive. She expresses her points with standard diplomatic discourse as well as some grounded expressions, which can change the public's stereotype of the spokesperson, thus narrowing the psychological distance with the audience. When facing the issues related to violate national sovereignty and interests, her has tough attitude, combining hardness and softness and creating a vivid image of spokesperson to convey our country's voice.

As for the study of pragmatic strategies, most scholars discussed the use of vagueness, euphemism and evasive responses in diplomatic occasions. They found that Hua Chunying often uses proverbs to convey cross-cultural communication information. In order to preserve the face of the counterpart, she often uses strategies like fuzziness, substitution and metaphor to create a harmonious communication atmosphere, which can express China's diplomatic position and avoid unnecessary disputes. Evasive answers is also a pragmatic strategy that Hua Chunying often uses. For specific questions that she doesn't know or malicious remarks that smear China, she queries the counterpart's behavior by temporarily evading or counterattacking, so as to maintain the national interest and image by stabilizing the discourse situation.

As for the study of Hua Chunying's discourse attitude, it shows that she has different attitudes when facing different problems. In the face of general political and economic issues, she is mild and hope that all countries and regions could strengthen cooperation, maintain friendly contact and promote common development; In the face of issues related to foreign media slander China since the epidemic, she has a firm attitude and conveys that China accepts an open and transparent investigation. At the same time, China is willing to cooperate with other countries to fight against the epidemic together; In the face of issues related to international relations, her attitude is pertinent, she hopes that all countries could support the idea of jointly building a community with a shared future for mankind to promote sustainable development. In the face of issues related to violate human rights or China's sovereignty and interests, we can find that Hua Chunying keenly refutes foreign media's false statements by making statements on social platforms and press conferences, it can destroy the discourse traps of the West, thus safeguarding China's credibility.

From Chinese and foreign scholars' relevant research on Hua Chunying, it can be found that they often explore linguistic and diplomatic issues, focusing on Hua Chunying's linguistic features and pragmatic strategies. In addition, they explain her discourse attitudes when dealing with different problems and refuting foreign media's discourse. Through a comprehensive study of Hua Chunying's discourse, it is conducive to broaden the understanding of Chinese government's official position represented by the spokesperson.

## Conflicts of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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