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Review of Vladislav Kruglov's PhD thesis, entitled "Terminology of the Classical Chinese Treatise Xici Zhuan ("Commentary on the Appended Phrases") and its Projection on Phraseology of the Contemporary Political Discourse", submitted for the Degree of Candidate of Philological Studies in Scientific Specialization 5.9.6. Languages of Peoples of Foreign Countries (Chinese Language)

According to the author, establishing connections between traditional Chinese philosophical texts and the contemporary political discourse of the PRC have not been covered that comprehensively and completely. (PhD thesis, p. 6) He writes that in the classical Chinese treatise 係辭傳 Xici Zhuan ("Commentary on the Appended Phrases"), basic concepts of traditional Chinese philosophy and culture reflecting, in particular, the idea of duality of the world, are concentrated (p. 4).

He observes, that recently, a 'back to the origins' process has been observed in the political discourse, which implies resorting to central ideas of traditional Chinese thought and philosophy and is exemplified in employment of linguistic means of the classic Chinese language wenyan in political speeches, within which a quintessence of philosophical and worldview constants is taking place. Being the President of the Chinese People's Republic, Xi Jinping used over 40

idiomatic phrases – chengyu four-character idioms – in one of his speeches addressed to students of the Beijing University, which evidences that appeal to the antiquity and the wisdom of previous generations constitutes an important component of the cultural code of Chinese civilization (p. 5).

Overall, the author has achieved the set goals. If the work can, however, be supplemented, I suggest that he puts the return to traditional Chinese language and culture into the context to the Chinese Communist Party's polarity norm of 古为今用 gu wei jin yong make the past serve the present" (See my essay "Recent Developments in the Relations between State and Party Norms in the People's Republic of China, in: Stuart R. Schram (ed.): *The Scope of State Power in China*, London u.a. 1985, p. 182; <https://freidok.uni-freiburg.de/fedora/objects/freidok:5818/datastreams/FILE1/content>).

I noticed some formal inconsistencies. For instance, in Pinyin, the author writes surnames and first names in one word. For instance:

152. Píngyìjìnrén. Xìjìnpíng de yǔyán lìliàng. Wàijiāo juàn. (平易近人. 习近平的语言力量. 外交卷). Correct would be: [...] Xi Jinping [...]

159 142. Dèngxiǎopíng wénxuǎn (邓小平文选). Correct would be: Deng Xiaoping ...

159. Xióngshíli. Dújīng shì yào (熊十力. 读经示要) [Xiong Shili. Main Instructions for reading the Canons]. Chongqing, Southern Press, 1945. Correct would be "Xiong Shili"....

161. Yǔ tóng. Zhōngguó zhéxué dàgāng. Gòng liǎng tào (宇同. 中国哲学大纲. 共两套) [Yu Tong. Outline of Chinese Philosophy. Vol. 1,2]. Beijing, Commercial Press, 195. Correct would be «Yu Tong...» with a big "T".

Please consult the relevant orthography rules¹:

6.2.1.1 汉语人名中的姓和名分写,姓在前,名在后。复姓连写。双姓中间加连接号。姓和名的首字母分别大写,双姓两个字首字母都大写。笔名、别名等,按姓名写法处理。例如:

Lǐ Huá (李华)	Wáng Jiànguó (王建国)
Dōngfāng Shuò (东方朔)	Zhūgě Kǒngmíng (诸葛孔明)
Zhāng-Wáng Shūfāng (张王淑芳)	Lǚ Xùn (鲁迅)
Méi Lánfāng (梅兰芳)	Zhāng Sān (张三)
Wáng Mázǐ (王麻子)	

In course of the study, keynote speeches of Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Xi Jinping as of the three political leaders called in China 'the core of the CC CCP and of the state' [Resolution of the 19th National Congress of the CPC on the Draft Restated Constitution of CPC. (Accessed 14.09.2021)] have been considered. (p.6). Unfortunately, the author does not mention the date of the document. I also did not find it in "Reference - Literature In Chinese Language" (p. 160 etc.) I checked the Full text of resolution on amendment to CPC Constitution (Updated: Oct 24,2017: http://english.www.gov.cn/news/top_news/2017/10/24/content_281475919837140.htm), but I did not find a confirmation for the author's statement that Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Xi Jinping are called "the core of the CCP and the state". Therefore, I think besides Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Xi Jinping, also Wen Jiabao (2003-2013 Prime minister) could or should have been included into the author's research because Wen Jiabao was known to have loved to quote ancient praseolgy, please look at this book: https://books.google.ch/books?id=2TqwAAAAQBAJ&hl=de&source=gbs_navlinks_s (王春永. 中華書局(香港)出版有限公司, 01.07.2008 - 263 pages).

¹

<http://www.moe.gov.cn/ewebeditor/uploadfile/2015/01/13/20150113091717604.pdf>

According to the author, established terminology of traditional Chinese philosophy and culture and its correct rendering into Russian are important not only in terms of history and philosophy, but also of linguoculturology (p. 5-6).

However, certain translations also seem questionable to me. For instance:

152. Píngyìjìnrén. Xíjìnpíng de yǔyán lìliàng. Wàijiāo juàn. (平易近人. 习近平的语言 力量. 外交卷) [Facilitating Governance and Approaching the People. The Power of Xi Jinping's Language. Diplomacy Volume]. Shanghai, Shanghai Jiaotong University Press, 2014. "Approaching the people" for "近人" is o.k., but "Facilitating Governance and Approaching the People" is a translation of "平易", which I do not understand. 平易 simply means amiable, unassuming.

The PhD thesis shows great diligence and honest effort. Vladislav Kruglov researched an exquisite subject in a creative way. For this he deserves great praise. If I had to give a grade, it would be magna cum laude.

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