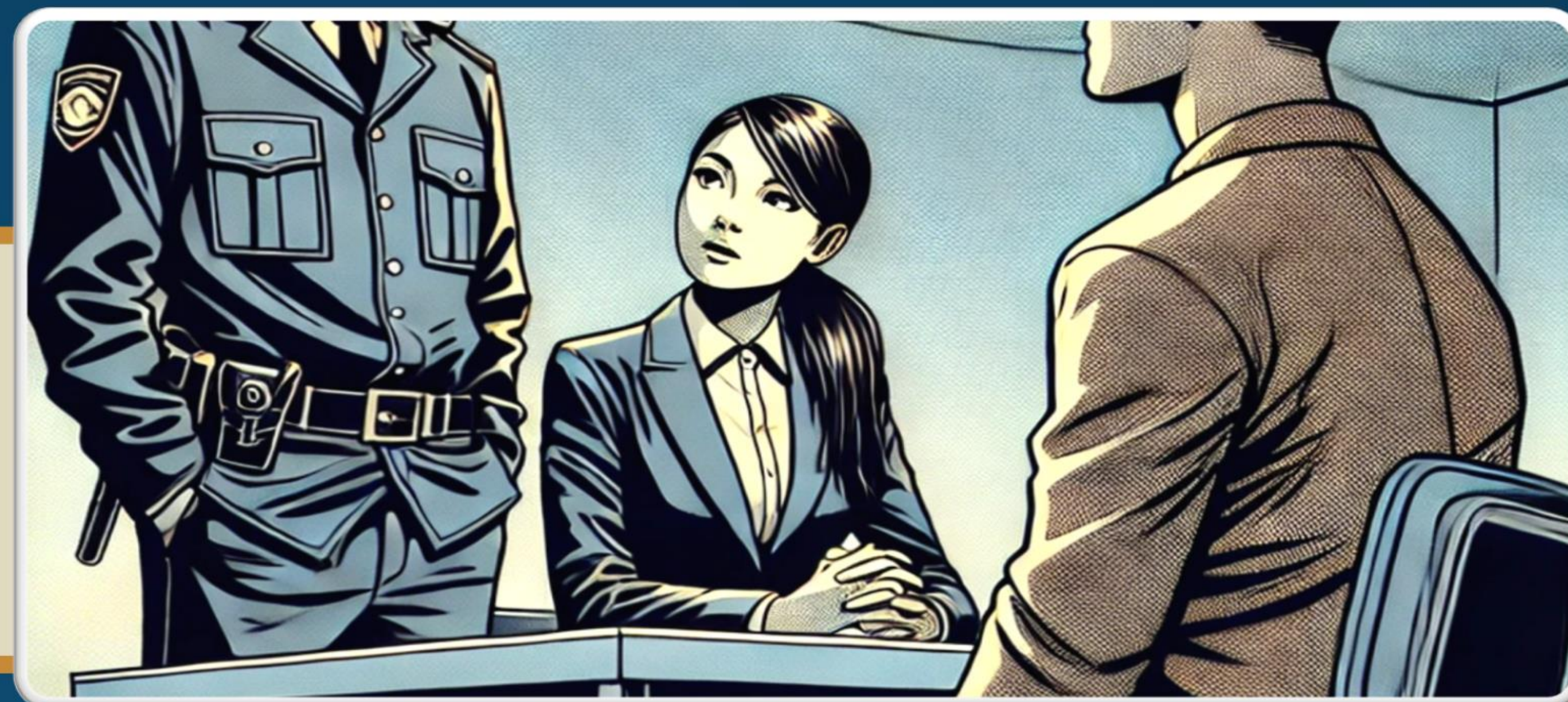


Background

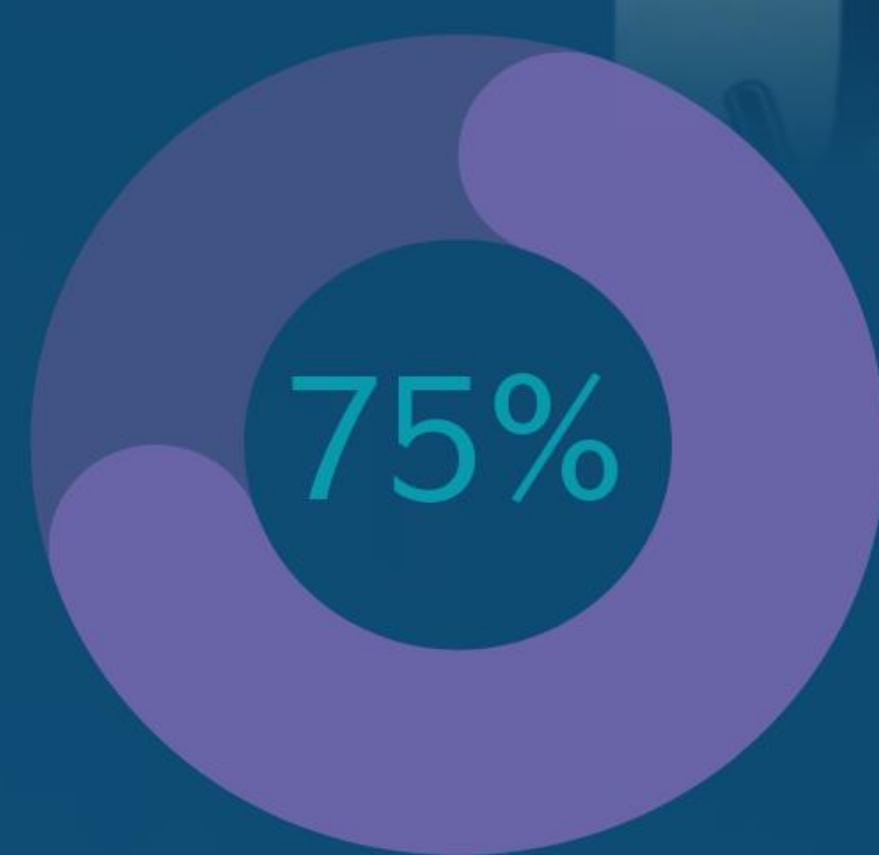
Embracing globalization is not new in China, but its effect on people may well be, and more and more are directly affected. Since 1980, more and more people have come and worked in China; however, where there are people, there comes conflict. According to the statistics from the China National Immigration Administration, in the year 2023 alone, 32,000 individuals involved in cross-border illegal activities related to gambling and fraud were intercepted. Throughout the year, over 80,000 firearms and explosives were seized, 8.5 tons of various drugs and 949.3 tons of drug-making materials were confiscated, and smuggled goods worth over 760 million yuan were intercepted.

Power and Translation Deviations: Interpreting Challenges in Chinese Police Questioning



Research Design

-  Data Collection and Transcription
-  Qualitative Discourse Analysis
-  Contextual and Institutional Analysis



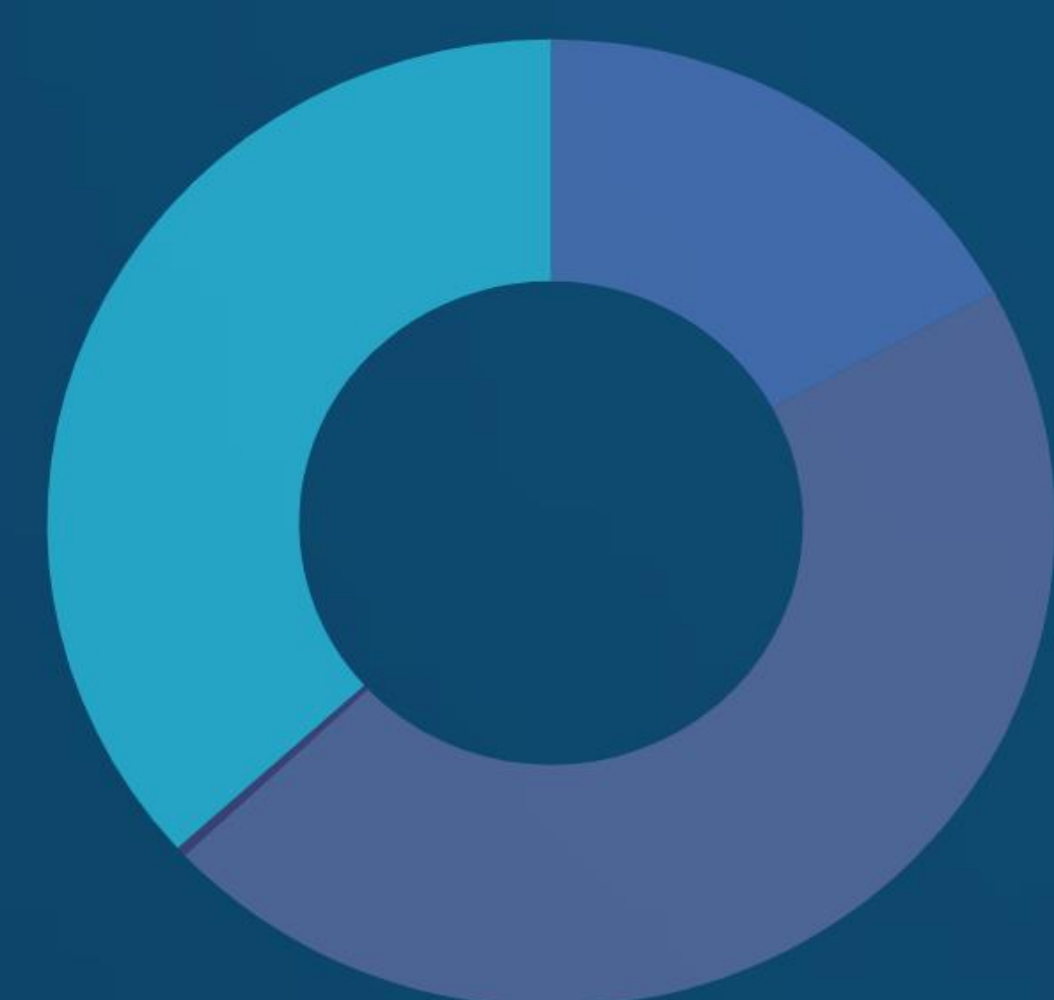
Interpreter Renditions
Police Questions = 75%

Barriers

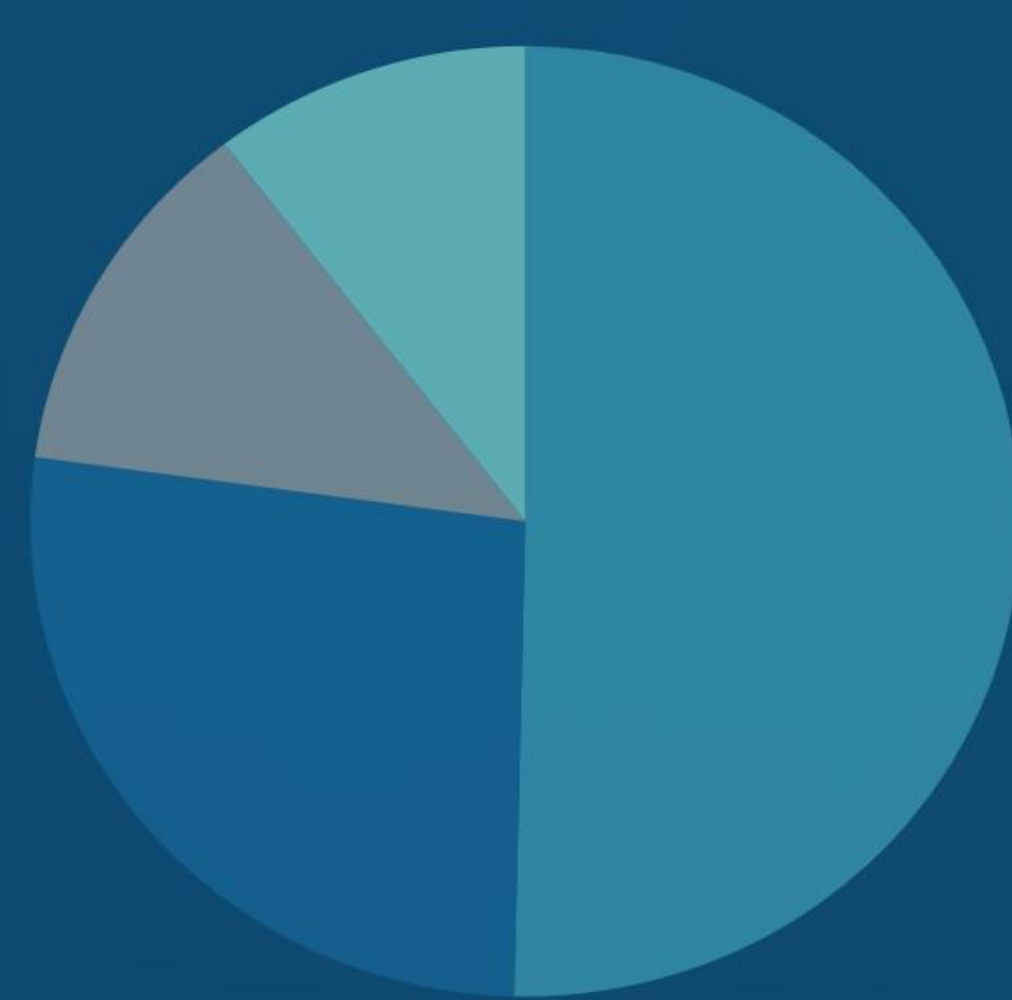
-  Impact of Legal Regulations
-  Lacking of Sense for Cooperation
-  Immature Police Interpreting Market

Methodology

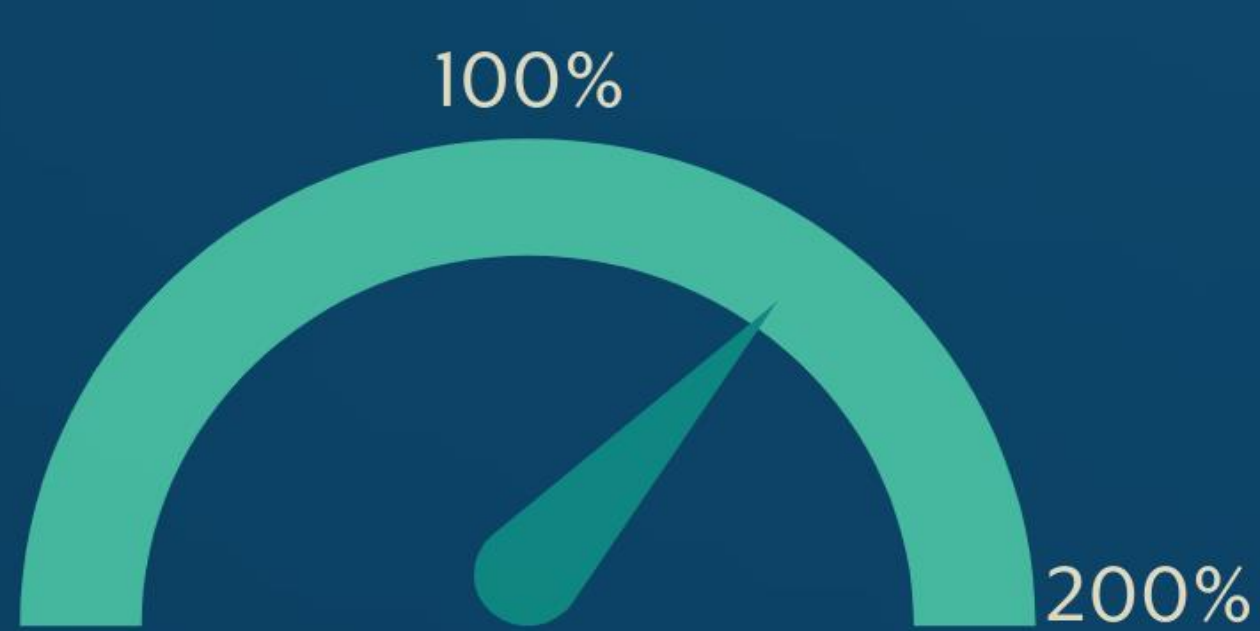
- Dataset: 13 authentic audio-recorded police interviews with English-Chinese interpreters, conducted from 2015 to 2019 in five Chinese cities.
- Method: Qualitative discourse analysis, exploring discrepancies between police questions and interpreted responses.
- Focus: Types of translation deviations (e.g., omissions, additions) and their correlation with legal and institutional factors, such as the lack of a lawyer and the leniency-for-confession system.



- Added Follow-up Questions (424)
- Rephrased Interpretations (1138)
- Shortened Interpretations (8)
- Skipped Questions (911)

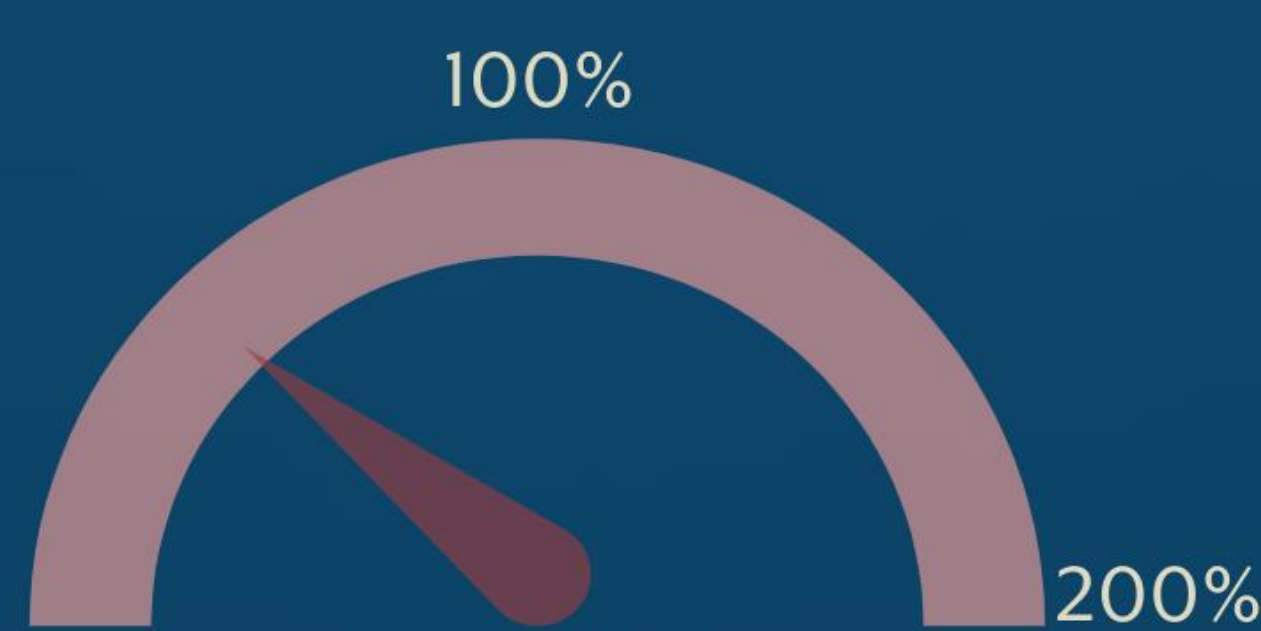


- Interpreter Interrupted by Police (344)
- Interpreter Interrupted by Suspect (183)
- Interpreter Interrupting Police (85)
- Interpreter Interrupting Suspect (71)



EXPECTED
STANDARD RATIO

Chinese Character
English Word = 143%



OBSERVED
DATA AVERAGE

Chinese Character
English Word = 47%

Key Findings

- Power Asymmetry: Institutional factors such as leniency for confession, lacking lawyer presence rights during interrogation compromise interpreters' neutrality and make them tend to align with the authority.
- Implications for Fairness: Translation deviations can potentially compromise suspects' rights, affecting their ability to fully understand and respond accurately.
- Need for Professionalization: The lack of specialized training for police interpreters in China underscores the importance of developing standardized protocols and qualifications to ensure fair, accurate interpreting in legal settings.



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