The Chinese Translation Quality Checklist

FREE PREVIEW

What Native Speakers Check Before Approving Any Translation

By the Author of China Decoded

chinadecoded.netlify.app

Native Mandarin Speaker · Linguistics Degree · 15+ Years China Analysis · Forensic Linguistics

This is a free preview of the complete Chinese Translation Quality Checklist. It includes the first 3 full checklist items exactly as they appear in the full version, plus a complete list of everything else included in the full checklist.

No machine translation tool and no general translator checks everything on this list. That's exactly why it exists.

SECTION 1: TRANSLATION QUALITY CHECKLIST

☑️ 1. Tone and Register

Does the translation match the formality level required? Chinese has distinct registers for business, legal, marketing, and casual communication. Too formal reads as cold. Too casual reads as unprofessional.

> Example: A marketing slogan in formal written Chinese loses warmth. A legal contract in conversational Chinese loses authority.

Watch out: Ask: would a native Chinese speaker in this context actually speak this way?

☑️ 2. Back-Translation Test

Translate the Chinese version back into English independently, without looking at the original. If the meaning has shifted, something was lost or distorted in translation.

Watch out: Pay close attention to any sentence that reads differently. That is where the problem lives. This works best when done by someone who has not seen the original English.

☑️ 3. Homophone and Tone Traps

Chinese is a tonal language. The same syllable with different tones produces completely different characters and meanings. The wrong character can produce meaning that is absurd, offensive, or simply wrong. Critical in names, slogans, and product titles.

> Giving a clock: 送钟 (sòng zhōng) = giving a clock Attending a funeral: 送终 (sòng zhōng) = attending a dying person's final moments Four vs. death: 四 (sì) = four 死 (sǐ) = death

Watch out: Always check that every character was intentionally chosen, not auto-suggested by an input method.

What Else Is In the Full Checklist

The complete checklist includes 7 more translation quality items, a full 8-item cultural and taboo red-flags checklist, and a quick-reference error table. Here's everything you get:

Translation Quality Checklist (continued)

- 🔒 Character Accuracy
- 🔒 Simplified vs. Traditional Characters
- 🔒 Natural Sentence Flow
- 🔒 Punctuation and Formatting
- 🔒 Terminology Consistency
- 🔒 Machine Translation Detection
- 🔒 Legal and Regulatory Precision

Taboo and Cultural Red Flags Checklist

- 🔒 Numbers: Four, Six, and Eight
- 🔒 Clocks and Watches as Gifts or Symbols
- 🔒 Colors and Their Cultural Meanings
- 🔒 Inauspicious Words and Homophones
- 🔒 Brand Names: Phonetic and Semantic Review
- 🔒 Slogans and Idioms: Direct Translation Dangers
- 🔒 Historical and Political Sensitivity
- 🔒 Regional and Dialect Variation

Plus

- 🔒 Quick Reference: Most Common Errors table, with risk levels for every item

Get the Complete Checklist

The full checklist gives you everything above, ready to use on your next translation, brand name, or marketing campaign before it goes out the door.

Available now on Gumroad

chinadecoded369.gumroad.com

China Decoded