

The Doctrine of Scripture (2)

Lesson Eleven: Translation of Scripture (part 2)

Which Version?

AV/KJV	Authorized (King James) Version (1611)	ICB	International Children's Bible (1986)
RV	Revised Version (1885)	CCB	Christian Community Bible (1988)
ASV	American Standard Version (1901)	REB	Revised English Bible (1989)
RSV	Revised Standard Version (1952)	NBSV	New Revised Standard Version (1990)
JBP	J. B. Phillips's New Testament in Modern English (1958; rev. 1972)	NCV	New Century Version (1991)
NWT	New World Translation (1961)	CW	God's Word (to the Nations) (1995)
Amp.	Amplified Bible (1965)	CEV	Contemporary English Version (1995)
JB	Jerusalem Bible (1966)	NASBU	New American Standard Bible update (1995)
NEB	New English Bible (1970)	NLT	New Living Translation (1996; rev. 2004)
NAB	New American Bible (1970)	NIRV	New International Readers Version (1994-1998)
LB	Living Bible (1962-1971)	NIV	NIV inclusive-language edition (1997)
NASB	New American Standard Bible (1971)	NET	New English Translation (2001)
TEV	Today's English Version (1976)	NTEI	New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version (1995)
NIV	New International Version (1978)	ESV	English Standard Version (2001)
NKJV	New King James Version (1982)	<i>The Message</i>	Eugene Petersen's <i>The Message</i> (1993-2002)
NJB	New Jerusalem Bible (1985)	HCSB	Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)
		TNIV	Today's New International Version (2005)

English Translations

Translation Philosophies

A. Formal Equivalence (literal)

- goal is faithful reproduction of the original language into an equivalent form in English
- as close to a word-for-word correspondence as is possible while still readable
- seeks to match elements of the original language with those in English (*verb tense, mood, word order, conjunctions, prepositions, pronouns*)

English Translations

Translation Philosophies

A. Formal Equivalence (literal)

- retains ambiguities from the original language into English (e.g. genitive case – “of...”)
- presumes the original context – requires a greater degree of interpretation by the reader

(*KJV, NKJV, ASV, RSV, NASB, ESV*)

English Translations

Translation Philosophies

B. Dynamic/Meaning Equivalence (free)

- goal is a faithful translation of the meaning of the original language into English
- seeks to convey the thought/idea of the original language, not a word-for-word correspondence
- good, natural English determine the shape of the translation (not the original form)

English Translations

Translation Philosophies

B. Dynamic/Meaning Equivalence (free)

- presumes a contemporary context – same effect on the modern reader as the original reader
 - e.g. *cultural correspondence* (*Wycliffe*)
- more interpretive translation – removes ambiguities, idioms, grammatical forms

(**NIV, CEV, TEV-Good News, *NET, LB, Message*)

English Translations

Formal Equivalence

Focuses on form
Emphasizes source language
Translates what is said
Presumes original context
Retains ambiguities
Less interpretive bias
Less natural English-style

Dynamic Equivalence

Focuses on meaning
Emphasizes receptor language
Translates what is meant
Presumes contemporary context
Remove ambiguities
More interpretive bias
More natural English-style

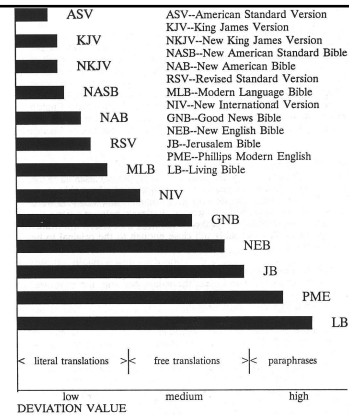
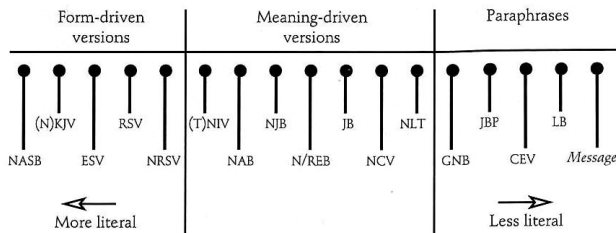


Table 2.6. Bible Versions Organized by Translation Philosophy



English Translations

Evaluation

1. Verbal Inspiration

- written in Greek and Hebrew not English
- every word is important – careful about removing words deemed unnecessary or add words
- forms and nuance are important

English Translations

Evaluation

2. Translation vs. Interpretation

- as much as possible interpretation should be left to the reader
- meaning equivalent translations are more dependent on the interpretive perspective of the translator

English Translations

Evaluation

3. Theological Perspective

- all translations will exhibit some doctrinal bias of the translators
 - e.g. doctrine of Scripture, Christ, salvation
- Conservative/Evangelical Translators: KJV, NKJV, NASB, NIV, ESV, HCSB
- Less conservative: RSV, NRSV, NEB

Examples

gar ("for"); ou;vn ("therefore")

ì lasmoj ("propitiation") Rom.3:25; Heb. 2:17; 1 John 4:10

sarx ("flesh") – 91x in Paul's letters

dikaiousu,nh qeou/ (Romans 1:17)

- possessive genitive = God's righteous nature
- subjective genitive = God's righteous activity
- genitive of source = righteousness from God

English Translations

Conclusion/Recommendations

1. NASB(u) – best representation of the original text; use for study purposes (maybe for reading)
2. ESV – best all-purpose Bible (study and reading)
3. NKJV – Tyndale tradition; inadequate textual basis
4. NRSV – good all-purpose Bible; less conservative
5. NIV – adequate reading Bible; supplement with a more literal version for study