



1) What is the Goal of Bible Translations?

A. Literal

1) Defined: is rendering of text from one language to another “word-for-word” rather than conveying the sense of the original.

John 3:16

“¹⁶for God did so love the world, that His Son—the only begotten—He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-during.”

(Young’s Literal)

1) What is the Goal of Bible Translations?

B. Thought for Thought (Dynamic Equivalent, Functional Equivalent)

1) “based on the premise that whenever something in the original text is foreign or unclear to a contemporary English reader, the original text should be translated in terms of an equivalent rather than literally... frequently making interpretive decisions for the reader and adding commentary to the text.” (Choosing a Bible, Ryken, pg7)

2) “commonly results in **paraphrasing** where a more literal rendering is needed to reflect a specific and vital sense.” (NKJV Preface)

Matthew 25:13

¹³ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

(NIV)

¹³ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”

(NKJV)

1 Peter 4:1

"¹ So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin."

(New Living Translation)

"¹ Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,"

(NKJV)



1) What is the Goal of Bible Translations?

C. Word for Word (Essentially Literal, Formal Equivalent)

- 1) "*the most complete representation of the original has been rendered by considering the history of usage and etymology of words in their contexts... seeks to preserve all of the information in the text, while presenting it in good literary form.*" (NKJV Preface)



1) What is the Goal of Bible Translations?

C. Word for Word (Essentially Literal, Formal Equivalent)

- 2) An "essentially literal" translation strives to render the original Hebrew and Greek words with their English counterparts while adapting the original grammar to English grammar. ("Translations" article, Sharp)



Acts 8:37

³⁷ Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."^[a]

(NKJV)

³⁷ [^[a]And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]

(NASB)



Acts 8:37

..... (ESV)



1) What is the Goal of Bible Translations?

D. Paraphrase

- 1) "*For whenever the author's exact words are not translated from the original languages, there is a possibility that the translator, however honest, may be giving the English reader something that the original writer did not mean to say. This is because a paraphrase is guided not only by the translator's skill in simplifying but also by the clarity of his understanding of what the author meant and by his theology. For when the Greek or Hebrew is not clear, then the theology of the translator is his guide along with his sense of logic.*" (The Living Bible Preface)



John 3:16

16-18" This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was...

(The Message)



1) What is the Goal of Bible Translations?

E. Your Options

- 1) Literal: Interlinear, Young's Literal
- 2) Dynamic Equivalent (Thought for Thought): New International Version, Today's NIV, New Living Translation, Contemporary English Version, Good News Bible...
- 3) Essentially Literal (Word for Word): New American Standard Bible, English Standard Version, King James Version, New KJV, Revised Standard Version, **New RSV**...
- 4) Paraphrase: The New Testament in Modern English, The Living Bible, The Message, The Street Bible..

which
BIBLE
should I
USE?



2) Does It Really Matter?

A. YES!

which
BIBLE
should I
USE?



Psalms 119:111

*Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever,
For they are the rejoicing of my heart.*

(NKJV)



1 Corinthians 2:4-5, 12

and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

(NASB)



Matthew 4:4

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

(NASB)



Revelation 22:18-19

I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; ¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

(NASB)



2) Does It Really Matter?

A. YES!

B. Problems with Dynamic Equivalent & Paraphrase Translations:

- 1) Removes Customs (Psalms 23:5)



Psalms 23:5

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. (NKJV)

⁵You treat me to a feast, while my enemies watch. You honor me as your guest, and you fill my cup until it overflows. (CEV)

⁵ You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing. (The Message)



2) Does It Really Matter?

A. YES!

B. Problems with Dynamic Equivalent & Paraphrase Translations:

- 1) Removes Customs (Psalms 23:5)
- 2) Oversimplifies (2 Peter 3:15-16)



Translation Chart

Hard to Read	12th grade	KJV		
	11th grade	NASB		
	10th grade	NASB		
Average Adult Level	9th grade	NASB		
	8th grade	NASB		
	7th grade	NRSV NKJV	NIV	TLB
Children's Bibles	6th grade	NLT		Message
	5th grade	CEV		Message
	4th grade	ICB		Message
	3rd grade	NIV		Message
		Formal Equivalence	Dynamic Equivalence	Paraphrase
TRANSLATION METHODOLOGY				



2) Does It Really Matter?

A. YES!

B. Problems with Dynamic Equivalent & Paraphrase Translations:

- 1) Removes Customs (Psalms 23:5)
- 2) Oversimplifies (2 Peter 3:15-16)
- 3) Gender Neutral (NRSV, CEV, TNIV, NCV)



Psalms 34:19-22

²⁰ He keeps all his bones, Not one of them is broken.

(NASB)

²⁰ He protects all their bones; not even one will be broken.

(CEB)



3) Strengths & Weaknesses

A. Dynamic Equivalent

- 1) Strengths
 - a. A substitute for modern language
 - b. Some believe it is easier to read
 - c. Revisions
- 2) Weaknesses
 - a. Sacrifices accuracy for readability and the translator's opinions are added.
 - b. Translators believe they have the duty to make interpretive decisions for the ignorant reader.
 - c. Does not italicize what is translation and what is opinion.



3) Strengths & Weaknesses

B. Paraphrase

- 1) Strengths
 - a. May help explain in a modern way.
- 2) Weaknesses
 - a. Not a true translation.



3) Strengths & Weaknesses

C. Essentially Literal

- 1) Strengths
 - a. Transparent to the Original Text.
 - b. Does Not Simplify
 - c. Steward Not Editor



3) Strengths & Weaknesses

C. Essentially Literal

- 2) Weaknesses
 - a. KJV – out dated language
 - b. NKJV – updated language but still did not update
 - c. NASV – maintains “*thee*” & “*thou*” when God is addressed
 - d. ESV – Does not capitalize words when referring to God/Christ

