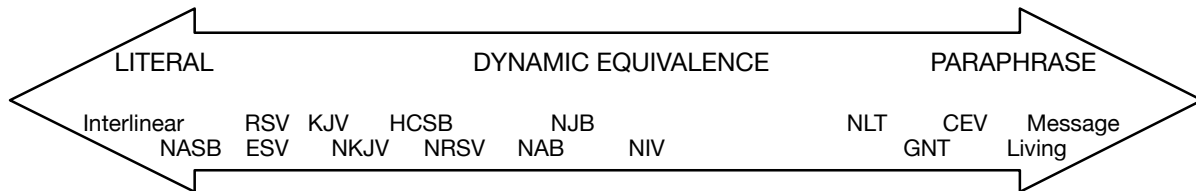


Bible Translations

Translation Theory

1. **Dynamic/functional equivalence:** attempt to render the force of the passage into the target language.
2. **Formal equivalence:** attempt to render the passage as precisely as possible with the forms and expressions of the original language.

English Translations



- KJV King James Version. public domain. 1611. Authorized Version, authorized by King James to replace several English translations (Coverdale 1537, Great Bible 1538 > Bishop’s Bible 1568, Geneva Bible 1560). NT based on *Textus Receptus* (*TR*), the Received Text (Greek New Testament compiled by Erasmus from a half-dozen late-medieval MSS). 12th grade reading level.
- NKJV New King James Version. © 1982 Thomas Nelson. NT based on *TR*. 8th grade reading level.
- RV Revised Version, 1885. A major British revision of KJV, with better understanding of Hebrew, and using for NT the eclectic texts (based on hundreds of much early MSS) of Tischendorf, Westcott-Hort etc. not *TR*.
- ASV American Standard Version, 1901. By American members of the RV translation committee.
- RSV Revised Standard Version, © NT ¹1946, ²1971, OT ¹1952 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Revision of ASV. Includes apocrypha/deuterocanonical books.
- NRSV New Revised Standard Version. © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Revision of RSV under leadership of Bruce Metzger (Princeton). The standard used in academic circles. Includes apocrypha/deuterocanonical books. 10th grade reading level.
- ESV English Standard Version. © 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Crossway declared the 2016 update to be the Permanent Text. Attempt to produce a literal, readable translation in the tradition of RSV, avoiding “political correctness” of NRSV. 8th grade reading level. www.esv.org; www.esvbible.org.
- NASB New American Standard Bible. © 1963 NT, 1971 OT The Lockman Foundation. A revision of the ASV. 11th grade reading level.
NASB Updated Edition. © 1995 The Lockman Foundation. A modest updating or NASB, changing “Thee,” “Thou,” etc. to “You,” etc.; removing many initial “And”s; changing punctuation. www.lockman.org/nasb.
- HCSB Holman Christian Standard Bible. © 2001 NT, 2003 OT Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville. Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention to replace the NIV, when the NIV translators announced plans for a gender-neutral revision. www.hcsb.org.
- NIV New International Version. © 1973 NT, 1978 OT, 1984, 2011 Biblica (formerly International Bible Society). By an international team of translators, the Committee on Bible Translation (CBT which continues to meet). Reproduction rights granted to Zondervan (US), Hodder & Stoughton (UK). The 2011 edition superseded both NIV 1984 and the more gender-sensitive TNIV (Today’s New International Version; © 2001 NT, 2005

Bible Translations

- OT). NIV 2011 is similar to TNIV. 8th grade reading level. www.biblica.com.
- CEB Common English Bible. © 2010. Christian Resources Development Corp. (Chalice Press [Disciples of Christ], Westminster John Knox [PCUSA], Church Publishing [Episcopal], Pilgrim Press [UCC], Abingdon [UMC]). Includes apocrypha/deuterocanonical books. 7th grade reading level (=USA Today). www.commonenglishbible.com.
- JB Jerusalem Bible, 1966. Catholic translation based on *La Bible de Jérusalem* (1956).
- NJB New Jerusalem Bible. © 1985 Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday. Revision of JB, based upon a revision of *La Bible de Jérusalem* (1973). The standard Catholic translation. 7th grade reading level.
- NAB New American Bible, 1970. An American Catholic translation. 6th grade reading level.
- JPS Jewish Publication Society, 1917.
- NJPS New JPS Translation. © 1985, 2009 The Jewish Publication Society. Often abbreviated as JPS, leading to possible confusion over which translation is indicated.
- Schocken *The Schocken Bible* by Everett Fox (New York: Schocken). Vol. 1 The Five Books of Moses (1995), The Early Prophets (2014). Attempts to be both literal and sensitive to literary patterns, following the translation philosophy of Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig (see their *Scripture and Translation* [Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994]).
- NEB New English Bible. © 1961 (NT), 1970 (OT) Oxford Univ. Press and Cambridge Univ. Press. Produced under the auspices of most UK mainline Protestant and Catholic churches, under the editorship of C. H. Dodd.
- REB Revised English Bible. © 1989 Oxford Univ. Press and Cambridge Univ. Press. A revision of NEB.
- GNB Good News Bible (aka in US as Good News Translation GNT); formerly Today's English Version TEV. © 1966 NT, 1976 OT American Bible Society. NT originally published as Good News for Modern Man. Drawings by Annie Vallotton. 6th grade reading level.
- CEV Contemporary English Version. 1995 American Bible Society. 5th grade reading level.
- Phillips J.B. Phillips. © 1960 J. B. Phillips. NT only.
- LB Living Bible. NT 1966, OT 1971. A paraphrase by Ken Taylor of the ASV.
- NLT New Living Translation. © 1996, 2004 Tyndale Charitable Trust (Tyndale House Publishers). A new translation in the spirit of the Living Bible (Ken Taylor) by a team of scholars. 6th grade reading level. www.newlivingtranslation.com.
- Message The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language © 2002 Eugene H. Peterson. Considerable debate as to whether this is a translation or a paraphrase. Peterson insists it is a translation. 5th grade reading level.
- NET The NET Bible. A freeware translation by conservative evangelical scholars (primarily Dallas Theological Seminary faculty). www.bible.org.

Helpful Resources

Books

- D. A. Carson, *The King James Version Debate: A Plea for Realism*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1978.
- D. A. Carson, *The Inclusive-Language Debate: A Plea for Realism*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- √ Philip W. Comfort, *Essential Guide to Bible Versions*. Wheaton: Tyndale House, 2000.
- √ David Dewey, *A User's Guide to Bible Translations*. Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 2005.
- √ Bruce M. Metzger, *The Bible in Translation: Ancient and English Versions*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- √ in PBCC library

Websites

www.tyndalearchive.com/Scriptures. Tyndale House, Cambridge, an evangelical study center.