

Bible Translations

I. Translation Theory (Approach)

A. Formal Equivalence (Word for Word)

1. KJV - NKJV - ESV - NASB - LSB
2. Concerned with Form
3. Stays as close as possible to the original grammar, words - word order, etc.
4. Work hard at maintaining the distinction between translating and commentating
5. Goal = to simply translate the words, phrases, sentences without adding clarifying statements
6. i.e. 2 Corinthians 5:14 - (Greek) - "For the love of Christ holds (constrains) us"
7. "Love of Christ" - could mean, "Christ's love for me" or "my love for Christ"
8. ESV vs. NIV

B. Functional or Dynamic Equivalence

1. NIV - NLT* - CSV - CEB (Common English) (Liberal)
2. Concerned with authorial intent "Thought for Thought"
3. Designed to convey the same meaning the author was intending to express while maintaining accuracy
4. Accuracy and Readability
5. i.e. John 17:4 - (Greek) = "I Thee glorified on the earth the work I finished which you have given me to I should do."
6. ESV vs. NIV

7. John 17:20 - (Greek) "Not behalf these neither I pray alone but also behalf those who believe through those word of them on me"
8. ESV vs. NIV
9. Caution / Challenge - Not getting overly interpretative (commentary)
- 10.i.e. Acts 27:17 - (Greek) "Fearing and lest into thy Syrtis they might fall off ..."
- 11.ESV - NIV - NLT
- 12.1 John 4:10 (Greek) "Sent his Son propitiation for the sins of us
- 13.ESV - NIV

II. Natural Language Translations (NLT)

- A. Tries to translate the text in a way that the original hearer would have heard it
- B. Try to maintain accuracy while using modern language, idioms, etc. ...
- C. Becomes very interpretative. Tries very hard to not make you work to understand the meaning
- D. Genesis 7:23 - NLT - ESV

III. Paraphrase (Living - Message - Good News - Contemporary English) - *Passion

- A. Usually a Single Author
- B. Very casual approach to translating
- C. Author's thoughts, insights
- D. Not scholarly
- E. DO NOT RECOMMEND!!
- F. The Message - 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (ESV-NIV-NLT)
- G. The Living Bible - Acts 13:48 (ESV); John 12:15 (ESV)
- H. Passion Translation - NO!!!