



## Trinitarian Bible Society

### TRANSLATION ANALYSIS CHECK LIST

This check list is designed to help us evaluate translations made from the Biblical language texts into receptor languages. This is accomplished by the use of back translations, specific checks of difficult passages, specific checks of theological terms and a textual analysis. We also need to see how consistently various words have been translated. One useful way for us to do this is for someone who is well-versed and competent in the receptor language to assist us.

#### 1. Back Translations:

A back translation is a literal rendering from the receptor or target language into English. This translation is a parallel rendition, similar to what is found in an interlinear Bible, which does not take into account the syntax and sentence structure of English. For instance, if one were to make a back translation of John 1.14 out of Greek into English it might read: "And the Word flesh became, and dwelled among us, and we beheld the glory of him, a glory as (the) Only begotten from alongside (the) Father, full of grace and truth". In some languages it will be necessary to note what role a particular word plays in the verse (e.g., is a noun the subject or object) if it is not obvious from the back translation.

#### Passages for back translation:

Genesis 3.15-16	Genesis 4.8	Psalms 2.1-2, 12
Psalms 104.4	Isaiah 7.14	Daniel 3.25
Hosea 12.4	Jonah 3.2-4	
Matthew 1.21-23	Matthew 10.28	Matthew 16.18-19
Matthew 20.28	Matthew 28.19-20	
John 1.1	John 1.12-14	John 3.3
John 3.16	John 3.36	John 5.24
John 5.39	John 14.6	John 20.30-31
Acts 2.38	Acts 12.4	Acts 13.48
Romans 1.16-17	Romans 3.25	Romans 5.1, 12, 19
Romans 8.1, 28-31	Romans 9.5	Romans 10.9, 17
Romans 12.1-2	1 Corinthians 15.58	2 Corinthians 5.21
Galatians 2.20	Ephesians 2.8-10	Philippians 2.7
1 Thessalonians 4.16-17	2 Thessalonians 2.13	1 Timothy 3.16
2 Timothy 3.16	Titus 2.13	Hebrews 2.9
James 2.21	2 Peter 3.9-10	1 John 1.7
1 John 3.9	Revelation 1.5	Revelation 22.14, 18-19

## **2. Specific Difficult Passages to Check:**

The following is a list of a few of the places where problems of modern translation principles may arise. Please indicate (by tick or check on this page) if the translation which you are evaluating follows the reading given below or, if alternatives are given, which reading it follows. Where the reading is different, please provide a translation of the words or phrase as it appears in the translation.

Genesis 3.15 - "it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel"  
 Genesis 12.3 - "shall all families of the earth be blessed"  
 Genesis 17.2 - "I will make my covenant"  
 Genesis 44.7 - "God forbid"  
 Exodus 1.5 - "seventy-five" (LXX) vs. "seventy" (MT)  
 Exodus 10.19, 13.18 - "Red Sea"  
 Exodus 34.6 - "The LORD, the LORD God"  
 Numbers 3.9 - "to me" (LXX) vs. "to him" (MT)  
 Numbers 11.25 - "and did not cease"  
 Joshua 19.34 - is "Judah" (MT) mentioned? (LXX omits)  
 1 Samuel 10.24 - "God save the king"  
 2 Samuel 24.13 - "seven"  
 2 Kings 8.26 and 2 Chronicles 22.2 - Ahaziah's age when he began to reign  
 Job 40.15 - "behemoth"  
 Psalm 3.1 - heading "A Psalm of David"  
 Psalm 32.5 - "thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin"  
 Psalm 49.11 - "tombs" (LXX) vs. "thoughts" (MT)  
 Psalm 72.5 - "he will endure" (LXX) vs. "they shall fear thee" (MT)  
 Psalm 89.3 - "a covenant"  
 Isaiah 9.6 - "wonderful Counsellor"  
 Ezekiel 26.20 - "take your place" (LXX) vs. "I shall set glory" (MT)  
 Hosea 13.14 - "repentance"  
 Zephaniah 3.8 - "stand up to testify" (LXX) vs. "rise up to the prey" (MT)

## **3. Specific Checks of Theological and Important Words:**

Some of the following word checks are designed to determine whether or not words from Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek have been consistently and correctly translated. Other words are of a theological nature. This check enables us to see how accurate and precise the translation you are evaluating is.

The following may be found by using a Concordance such as *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* by James Strong or the *Analytical Concordance to the Bible* by Robert Young. If you need help with finding the occurrences of these words, please let us know.

Consistency: (You may want to look at between ten and twenty instances of each word.)  
 hwhy [YHVH] -- "LORD" as over against "Lord" [ynwd] (adonai)  
 )n [na] -- "I pray thee"  
 hn̄h [hinneh] -- "behold"  
 kai [kai] -- "and" (especially in Mark's Gospel)

oun [*oun*] -- “therefore”

de [*de*] -- “but”, “and”

Theological terms: (Where “etc.” is given, please look up several more passages in which the word is used.)

“propitiation” (Romans 3.25; 1 John 2.2)

“justify”, “justification” (Romans chapters 3-5)

“righteousness” (1 Corinthians 1.30; 1 John 2.29; etc.)

“grace” (Ephesians 2.8, etc.)

“reconcile”, “reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5.19-20; Colossians 1.20; etc.)

“firstborn” (Matthew 1.25; Colossians 1.15, 18)

“ransom” (Mark 10.45; etc.)

“sanctify”, “sanctification” (1 Corinthians 1.30; 2 Thessalonians 2.13; 1 Thessalonians 5.23)

“only begotten” (John 1.14, 18; 3.16)

“redemption” (Ephesians 1.7; Colossians 1.14)

“conversation” (Philippians 1.27, 3.20; Hebrews 13.5)

“quicken” (Psalm 143.11; Romans 8.11)

#### **4. Textual Analysis of the New Testament using the *Textual Key***

The *Textual Key to the New Testament* is a booklet designed to analyze the textual basis of a translation of the New Testament. The Greek New Testament which TBS uses is the Textus Receptus. The *Textual Key* is a list of instances of omissions and changes which might be found in a translation whose textual basis is an edition of the Critical Text (United Bibles Societies text, Westcott/Hort text, etc.).

The general procedure is given in the introduction of the *Textual Key*. **Unless otherwise stated, each variant is an omission.** Thus in Matthew 1.25, if the word ‘firstborn’ is omitted, this needs to be indicated by placing an ‘Om’ next to the reference in the *Key* as an indication of a non-TR reading. If the passage has ‘firstborn’ then put a tick (check mark) next to the reference to indicate that it has been checked. If it is unclear as to whether there is an omission, please put a question mark next to the reference.

Occasionally there is a change of wording rather than an omission, such as in Matthew 6.33 where ‘the kingdom of God’ is changed to ‘his kingdom’. If this change has been made, place ‘Ch’ next to the reference. If the reading is different, please write out what the difference is. If the reading in the text is correct according to the *Textual Key*, place a tick (check mark) next to the reference to indicate that it has been checked. Most of the time, however, the variants listed in the *Textual Key* are omissions.

Thank you very much for your help in evaluating this translation. Your answers to the above will go a long way toward assessing the translators’/revisers’ work and thus aid in the task of completing this project.