

TRANSLATION METHOD

I. TYPES OF EQUIVALENCE USED IN TRANSLATING.

A. KJT used VERBAL EQUIVALENCE and FORMAL EQUIVALENCE, which means that the words from the Greek and Hebrew were rendered as closely as possible into the English.

B. DYNAMIC EQUIVALENCE. "We are going to rephrase what the Word of God says by rewording it in such a way that you will read what WE think it means." In other words, "We can say it better than God can." (Isn't this Humanism attacking the omniscience of Almighty God? No wonder God said in 1 Corinthians that "the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.")

(1) An example: The philosophy of Equivalence is seen in subtraction Satan used in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:1. "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

Genesis 3:16, 17. "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. (16) And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life;"

DYNAMIC implies "change" or "movement." The new versions take a sort of idiomatic rendering from the Greek, or Hebrew, into the English. It is idiomatic in the sense that they do not take a word-for-word method whenever possible. Instead they ADD to what was there, SUBTRACTED from what was there, and changed what was there. "Paraphrase is another word for it, although not claimed by the translators.

(2). For example, computer print-outs show that the NKJV has over 2,000 words that have been subtracted, changed or added to God's Word. The American Standard Version, by the same method has exhibited over 4,000 examples where the editors have added to, subtracted from, or changed the words by paraphrase.

(3). In the NIV there are also over 6,653 examples where the editors have done the same thing by adding, subtracting or paraphrasing. This is diabolical!

(4). Another example is direct denial of God's words. Notice in Satan's words in Genesis 3:4, "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: " as compared to God's words in Genesis 2:17, " But of the tree of the knowledge of

good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Two deaths were involved--physical and spiritual.

(5) Another example is adding to God's Word, as Satan did in Genesis 3:5, “... your eyes shall be opened,” etc. God never said that, did He?

(6) Another example of adding to God's Word is found in Genesis 3:3, “...neither shall ye touch it.” Eve added to God's Word, so, subtracting, adding, and changing is the heart of DYNAMIC EQUIVALENCY.

C. EUGENE NIDA popularized the Dynamic Equivalence method. He was with the Wycliffe Bible Translators, the American Bible Society, and the United Bible Society.

D. Some of the published works by NIDA and others about using this method are:

(1) 1947 – “Bible Translating” by Eugene Nida and published by the U.B.S.

(2) 1950 – “Translation or Paraphrase” (Nida)

(3) 1952 – “A New Method of Biblical Exegesis” (Nida)

(4) 1955 – “Problems in Translating the Scriptures” (Nida)

(5) 1959 – “Principles of Translating are Exemplified by Bible Translating.

(6) 1960 – “Message & Mission” (Nida)

(7) 1961 – “New Help for Translators” (Nida)

(8) 1964 – “Toward a Science for Translating” (Nida)

(9) 1966 – “The Bible Translators Use of Receptor Language Texts” (Nida)

(10) 1969 – “Theory and Practice of Translation” (Nida) and published in the Netherlands.

(11) 1966 – “Good News for Modern Man” came out using Nida's method of paraphrasing. In it is omitted the word “blood,” “*harma*” in Greek, 36 of the 103 times used in the New Testament. Of the 36 times, 16 of those refer to the blood of Christ. They substitute “death,” “sacrifice,” or some other word instead of “blood.” They tried real hard to get around 1 Peter 1:18, 19.

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; “

“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”

E. John MacArthur does the same thing, saying the blood of Christ is not essential. He says we are not saved by the blood of Christ.

F. Baptists. "The Association of Baptists for World Evangelism" published "By the Word," written by Lynn Silvernale. It is called "The Priority and Process of Bible Translation."

(1). She quotes Eugene Nida over and over in the book.

(2). She was over in Bangladesh and may still be; as far as I know~ She wrote the following:

"After a couple of years of translation experience, the translator and I found we were experiencing a considerable degree of frustration because we were making all these adjustments. (These adjustments were changes in God's Word by adding, subtracting, and changing the Word of God); yet, there was always the nagging question in the back of our minds: "Are we taking too many liberties with the text?" (Their consciences were being convicted.) "Is this really a faithful translation?" The translator was especially concerned about the warning in Revelation 22:18,19:

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part. out of the book of life, and out of the holy City, and from the things which are written in this book.

(Silvernale, op. cit., p.34)

G. Baptist Mid-Missions. Some time back, Bibles International, a branch of Baptist Mid-Missions, there appeared some articles, which justified this Dynamic Equivalency translating.

H. TRANSLATION DEFINED. The word comes from two Latin terms: "trans" and "latus." "Trans" means "across" and "latus" means to lift or carry. The literal meaning of "translation," therefore, is "to lift or carry across." Therefore idiomatic.