

Parchments of Promise

Lesson 7: Translation

How to Translate

- Translation Approach
 - Word-for-Word
 - Thought-for-Thought
 - Paraphrase
- Translation Philosophy
 - Formal Equivalence
 - Dynamic Equivalence

One Size Fits All?

- Word-for-word translations preserve technical precision.
- Technical precision sometimes ignores artistic and idiomatic language.

Example: Matthew 24:35, “My words will never not pass away.”

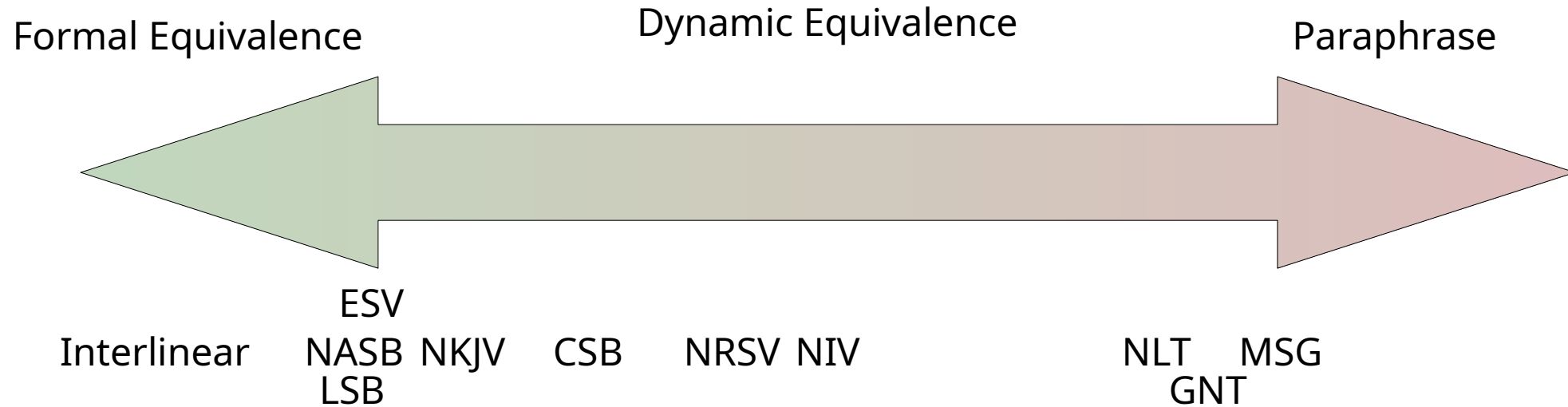


One Size Fits All? (continued)

- Languages may have different tenses and forms of words that other languages don't have.
- Grammar rules may be different.
 - "I before E"
 - when to use "a" or "an"

Example: Granville Sharp rule in 2 Peter 1:1


The Range of Translation



Question 1

What are some phrases, slang terms, and jargon that are used today that may be difficult to translate in the future?


My Answer

- The ball is in your court
 - Spill the beans
 - Break a leg
 - Piece of cake
 - Bite the bullet
 - What's up?
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Question 2

Do paraphrases like the GNT and NLT give an accurate paraphrase of Romans 12:20? Are they easy to understand?

My Answer

- Paraphrases often do not capture the meaning behind this verse and even cause it to be mistranslated.
 - Herein lies the danger of relying on translators to explain the meaning of idioms—sometimes they get it wrong.
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Question 3

Why should a word-for-word translation be preferred for serious Bible study?
Why is reliance on *only* a single word-for-word translation not a good idea?

My Answer

- Sometimes, a word-for-word translation can make a mistake. Relying on a single translation may compound that mistake.

Question 4

When a verse is hard to understand, what should you do?

My Answer

- First, we should consult multiple, literal translations to see if the verse is worded a little differently.
 - Second, we should consult verses on the topic that are more clear.
 - Finally, we can rely on trusted community of Christians to explain it to us, acknowledging that their opinion is not at the level of divine inspiration.
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