



A Guide to Bible Translation

People, Languages, Topics

Edited by
Philip A. Noss and Charles S. Houser

Description

This Guide offers an overview of theory and practice in Scripture translation from ancient times to the present—with an eye to the future. The Guide's 726 articles by 180 contributors are addressed to a global readership of Bible translators, students of culture and biblical studies, as well as interested church members and clerical leaders.

Contributing authors include Elizabeth Amaatekai Armar, Paul Ellingworth, Rim Hassen, Cynthia Miller-Naudé, Christiane Nord, Douglas Robinson, R. Daniel Shaw, Ronald J. Sim, Daud Soesilo, and Ernst R. Wendland. The Guide's wide-ranging articles are gathered into three key subject areas, each helpfully contextualized by an

introductory essay by the volume editor Noss:

1. People — The individuals presented include innovators and tireless advocates, from Jerome and Wulfila in Antiquity to Luther, Tyndale and Diodati in Reformation era Europe; from missionary translators like Ross and Nylander to mother-tongue translators like Yajiro and Su-Jung Lee; and includes modern-day translation scholars like E.A. Nida, K.L. Pike, and W.C. Townsend.

2. Languages — Besides concise, insightful looks at the original biblical languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek) and languages contemporaneous with the original languages, the Guide looks at 170 languages, most still spoken, that have been the recipients of key Bible translations over the past 500 years.

3. Topics — The final, and largest, section provides perspectives on translation in relation to the translation text. Extended essays (e.g., Figurative language; Translation theory and Bible translation) provide context and perspective on challenging issues; others address the practical issues faced by translators (Citation and allusion; Gender and grammar); and still others provide concise treatments of key terms (Language Taboo; Periphrasis; Ideophones).

Reader helps include 45 illustration (photographs, text samples, tables, graphics), 50 pages of detailed references, a Languages Index, and a Thematic Guide to Topics.

Advance and Published Reviews

This exhaustive resource ... is unprecedented and serves our discipline as a much-needed, ready source of information that is at once historical and contemporary while anticipating the future of the ongoing global phenomenon of Bible translation. The more than 180 contributors, including the Editorial Committee, Editorial Board, and Advisory Committee, is a who's who of Bible translation scholarship, practice, and experience from every aspect of the discipline.

— R, Daniel Shaw, Fuller Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, from review in *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*

Bible translation has always allowed itself to be stirred and driven not just by challenges but also by new knowledge, new technologies, new ideas of presentation, dictates of different geographical locations, and the needs of the target audiences whether these were ecclesiastical, politico-cultural, or ideological in nature. And now through this Guide's easy narrative style, its categorization of topics, and the courage to allow diverse voices and languages to speak into this complex subject, the United Bible Societies has added one more innovative tool into Bible translation work.

— Professor Margaret Muthwii, Vice Chancellor, Pan Africa Christian University, Kenya

In the 1990s, translation studies, led by scholars such as Susan Bassnett, André Lefevere, and Mary Snell-Hornby, took the now famous "cultural turn," looking at how institutions of power influenced translation decisions. Right around the same period, Bible translators took the "translation studies turn," looking to translation studies scholars such as James Holmes, José Lambert, Ernst-August Gutt, Lawrence Venuti, and Cristiane Nord, to expand their theoretical base. Such interdisciplinary collaboration, taking place at international colloquia, can be seen everywhere in *A Guide to Bible Translation*, which will appeal to students of Bible translation, translation studies, sacred text translation, the history of translation, and, especially, cultural studies.

– Professor Edwin Gentzler, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, USA

About the Editors and Authors

PHILIP A. NOSS received an MA in Classics and a PhD in African Languages and Literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was a Bible translator and literature coordinator for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon for eleven years. During twenty years with the United Bible Societies, he served as a translation consultant, Africa regional translation coordinator, and global translation services coordinator. He has authored numerous publications on Bible translation and African language and traditional literature.

CHARLES S. HOUSER received a BA in English from the State University of New York at New Paltz. He joined the staff of the American Bible Society in 1978 and served in various editorial, publication, and marketing capacities. As editorial and publications manager in the Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship he worked closely with translators and biblical scholars on the development of handbooks, monographs, and conference papers collections.

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