

Translation

Translation, in a broad sense of the word, is either the *process* of expressing words of one language in another language, or the *end result* of that process. The process of translation is performed by two different methods – translating and rendering.

Translate comes from the Latin *translat-*, “carried across” (past participle of *transferre*). When you translate, you take a word in someone else’s language, pick it up and carry it across the border back into your language. When it gets there, it’s still the *same* word, but now it’s in your language. Words are translated from the source language to the target language by way of *loan words* or *calques* (and some words are translated by way of both).

Loan Word. A foreign word is translated as a loan word by transferring it almost letter-by-letter (or phonetic sound-by sound) into the home language, with the same meaning. Translation by loan word is also referred to as *borrowing* or *transliteration*.

Calque. A foreign word is translated as a calque by taking the component parts of the word, and constructing a new word in the home-language using equivalent component parts.

Render comes from the Latin *redare*, “give back”. When you render, you take words (from one single word up to a multi-volume tome) in someone else’s language, put them into a pot, boil them down into another substance that has the *essence* of the original words, and then bring the new product back home into your language. By analogy, a whaler in the 19th century takes *foreign* whale blubber (a complex organic fat), and *renders* it in pots on his ship into *domestic* whale oil (still a complex organic fat, but in a different form), and then returns to his home port with the new product. Everyone’s rendering *pot* is different, because each person has different personal experiences (educational, cultural, etc.) that went into building and maintaining the pot. Everyone’s rendering *process* is different, because each person has different reasons for manufacturing the product, and different intended buyers of the product (for example, the reader of an academic journal is quite different than the reader of a children’s book). Because of this, no two renderings are exactly the same, and in some instances, they are significantly different. The many different Bible *versions* are different *renderings* of a source text.

Examples of Loan Words.

<u>Source Word</u>		<u>Loan Word</u>	
χριστός ¹	anointed one	Ἐϋησνυ	Christ (anointed one)
χ - ρ - ι - σ - τ - ό - ς		Ϸ - ϣ - η - υ - σ - ν - υ	
ch - r - i - s - t - o - s		K' - r - i - s - t - o - s	
כְּרוּבִים	cherubim	χερουβείμ	cherubim
k - ə - r - u - v - í - m (<i>phonetic</i>)		χ - ε - ρ - ο - υ - β - ε - ί - μ	
		ch - e - r - o - u - b - e - í - m	
χερουβείμ	cherubim	כְּרוּבִים	cherubim
χ - ε - ρ - ο - υ - β - ε - ί - μ		כ - ר - ו - ב - י - מ	
ch - e - r - o - u - b - e - í - m		k' - e - r - o - v - b - ē + k'	

¹ χριστός (*christos*) is a calque translation of the Hebrew מָשִׁיחַ (*mashiah*), “messiah”, *lit.* “anointed one”.

Translation

סֵרָפִיִּם seraphim
s - ə - r - a - f - í - m (*phonetic*)

σεραφείμ seraphim
σ - ε - ρ - α - φ - ε - ί - μ
s - e - r - a - f - e - i - m

σεραφείμ seraphim
σ - ε - ρ - α - φ - ε - ί - μ
s - e - r - a - f - e - í - m

սերսֵրֵք seraphim
u - Է - ր - ն - վ - ք - Է + ք (*plural*)
s - e - r - o - v - ք - Է + ք'

ἐκκλησία congregation, church
έ - κ - κ - λ - η - σ - ί - α
e - k - k - l - ē - s - í - a

եկեղեցի congregation, church
Է - կ - Է - ղ - Է - ց - ի
e - k - e - gh - e - ts - i

ἐπίσκοπος bishop
έ - π - ί - σ - κ - ο - π - ο - ς
e - p - í - s - k - o - p - o - s

եպիսկոպոս bishop
Է - պ - ի - ս - կ - ո - պ - ո - ս
e - p - i - s - k - o - p - o - s

Examples of Calques.

<u>Source Word</u>			<u>Calque</u>		
ἐπίσκοπος	(<i>epískopos</i>)	overseer	վերադիտող		overseer
ἐπί	(<i>epí</i>)	above, over	վեր		above, over
σκοπος	(<i>skopos</i>)	observer	դիտող		observer
θεολόγος	(<i>theológos</i>)	theologian	աստուածաբան		theologian
θεός	(<i>theós</i>)	god	աստուած		god
λόγος	(<i>lógos</i>)	word	բան		word
ὀρθόδοξος	(<i>orthódoxos</i>)	orthodox	նւղղափառ		orthodox
ὀρθός	(<i>orthós</i>)	straight, correct	նւղղիղ		straight, correct
δόξα	(<i>dóxa</i>)	glory	փառք		glory

Word Rendering Example

Two different English renderings of the same word, քաղցրութիւն (an abstract noun derived from the word քաղցր, “sweet”), in the same line:

նրպէս Որդւովն Աստուծոյ՝ Հօրն քաղցրութիւն,²

“through the Son of God. Also spread the **sweetness** of the Father,”³

“as the **loving kindness** of the Father was proclaimed through the Son,”⁴

² From St. Gregory of Narek’s *Prayer to the Holy Spirit*, in Prayer 33 of his *Book of Lamentations* (Մատենանիքերգութեան), which the Bishop inaudibly prays during the Preparation segment of the Badarak.

³ Thomas Samuelian, *Speaking with God from the Depths of the Heart. The Armenian Prayer Book of St. Gregory of Narek*, Yerevan: Vem Press, 2001.

⁴ Daniel Findikyan, Ed., *The Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Church, with Modern Armenian and English Translations, Transliteration, Musical Notation, Introduction and Notes*, New York: St. Vartan Press, 1999.

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Word Rendering Example

Three different words in the Badarak that are rendered “Armenians” in English:

1. Քահանայն. Եւս առաւել զեպիսկոպոսապետն մեր եւ զպատուական
Հայրապետն Ամենայն Հայոց զՏէր Գարեգին սրբազնագոյն Կաթողիկոսն...

The Priest: And more specially grant us to have our chief bishop and venerable Patriarch of All **Armenians**, His Holiness the Catholicos Lord Karekin...

2. Սարկաւազն. ... հովուաց եւ հովուապետացն հայաստանեայց, եղիցի
յիշատակ ի սուրբ պատարագս, աղաչեմք:

The Deacon: ... and all the pastors and chief-pastors of the **Armenians** be remembered in this holy sacrifice, we beseech the Lord.

3. Դպիրքն. Բարեխօսութեամբ վերին քո զօրացդ, միշտ անշարժ պահեա՛ զաթոռ
Հայկազնեայս:

The Choir: Through the intercession of your supernal hosts maintain ever unshaken the throne of **Armenians**.

1. Հայոց = of Hay people = of Armenians

Հայ	+	-ոց	=	Հայոց
Hay person		gen. pl.		of Hay people

2. Հայաստանեայց = of ones belonging to the Hay-person-place = of Armenians

Հայ	+	-ա-	+	-ստան	=	Հայաստան
Hay person				place of		Hay-person-place
Հայաստան	+	-եայ	+	-ց	=	Հայաստանեայց
Hay-person-place		belonging to a group		gen. pl.		of ones belonging to the Hay-person-place

3. Հայկազնեայս = ones belonging to the Haig-people-nation = Armenians

Հայկ	+	-ազն	=	Հայկազն		
Haig		people or nation		Haig-people-nation		
Հայկազն	+	-եայ	+	-ս	=	Հայկազնեայս
Haig-people-nation		belonging to a group		acc. pl.		ones belonging to the Haig-people-nation

Translation

Example of Different Bible Renderings

Psalm 23:1-4

King James Version

1 A Psalm of David.
The LORD⁵ is⁶ my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 22:1-4

New English Translation of the Septuagint

1 A Psalm. Pertaining to Daud.
The Lord⁵ shepherds me, and I shall lack nothing.
2 In a verdant place, there he made me encamp;
by water of rest he reared me;
3 my soul he restored.
He led me into paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4 For even if I walk in the midst of death's shadow,
I will not fear evil, because you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comforted me.

Psalm 23:1-4

The Passion Translation

1 Yahweh is my best friend and my shepherd.
I always have more than enough.
2 He offers a resting place for me in his luxurious love.
His tracks take me to an oasis of peace near the quiet brook of bliss.
3 That's where he restores and revives my life.
He opens before me the right path and leads me along in his footsteps of righteousness
so that I can bring honor to his name.
4 Even when your path takes me through the valley of deepest darkness,
fear will never conquer me, for you already have!
Your authority is my strength and my peace.
The comfort of your love takes away my fear.
I'll never be lonely, for you are near.

⁵ The *King James Version* distinguishes the word "Lord" in three ways. In all capital letters, LORD represents the Tetragrammaton (*four-letter*) word יהוה (YHWH, expressed as *Yahweh*), the name of the Hebrew God. In all lower-case letters, lord represents יְהוָה (adonai), a title of respect. When the first letter is capitalized, Lord represents *Adonai* as the honorific used when addressing the LORD/GOD (*Yahweh/Elohim*). All three forms are used in Isa. 19:4 of the *KJV*, "And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts." The *New English Translation of the Septuagint* only makes a distinction when it could be shown that the Greek translator made a comparable distinction between Yahweh and Adonai; otherwise, the Greek κύριος (*kyrios*) is typically represented by "lord". Cf. Isa. 19:4 of the *NETS*, "and I will deliver Egypt into the hands of men, cruel lords, and cruel kings will lord it over them. This is what the Lord Sabaoth says."

⁶ The *KJV* uses italics to distinguish words that do not have a directly-corresponding word in the source texts, but were added to the translation for clarity.