

An Indian Word List

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The Bible Society of India and Ceylon, in association with the British and Foreign Bible Society, has just published a translators' aid which breaks new ground. It will be indispensable for all future translators and revisers in India, and will stimulate imitation and extension in many other areas. Its importance is such that it is now being given full and immediate notice in *The Bible Translator*.

The full title of the book is *Greek New Testament Terms in Indian Languages (A Comparative Word List)* and the compiler is the Rev. J. S. M. Hooper, M.A., D.D., formerly General Secretary of the B.F.B.S. for India and Ceylon. Dr. Hooper was struck some years ago by the need for much closer association in translation work between the various Indian languages. It would, of course, often happen that members of a committee would be familiar with other languages and so be able to bring other translations into the pool of their own committee's work. But more often valuable opportunities of comparison were lost because the available material was not at their disposal. The Sanskritic vocabulary, especially of religious terms, which is largely common all over the north and is considerably used in the south also, was often used or left unused in a particular translation without consideration of renderings in other versions. Similarly, the links between the Dravidian languages in the south, or between some of the languages in Assam, had not been made use of as they might have been, had the material for comparison been ready to hand. A briefer attempt of the same sort had been made by Dr. Murdoch in 1876, but copies of this booklet were rare and much translation work had been done since his day. There was other "occasional" material, but nothing that translators without extensive libraries could use simply and straightforwardly.

A further perennial problem in translation is, of course, the use of religious terms that have begun in a non-Christian background. What are their overtones? Can they be baptized into Christ, or must substitutes be found or even manufactured? This book does not attempt to answer these questions. It does, however, take a select list of 120 words, nearly all of which are theologically significant, and provide the means by which each translator or translation committee writer can see how the problem has been tackled elsewhere and so be guided towards a right judgment.

In his introduction Dr. Hooper outlines the long process by which his book came into print. In 1944 the first meeting of the Council of the newly formed Bible Society of India and Ceylon gave him the assistance of a small committee. The list of 120 words was drawn up, and was circulated to people in 16 language areas with the request for as full information as possible on the translations of these words in the different versions of the New Testament in each language.

Special information was requested for passages where the translation inevitably varied, e.g. for *agapē*, meaning 'love feast' in Jude 12, or *episcopē* in its varying meanings of 'office', 'visitation', etc. The words are all transliterated into Roman script. This may make them hard to recognize for those familiar with the proper scripts, but it is the only means of making them generally intelligible.

The response received varied. Some correspondents were too busy to go into great detail, and gave somewhat incomplete answers. Others realized the importance of the work and went through every instance of the word under consideration. The sample page reprinted here will make this clear. Dr. Hooper was in the hands of those on whom he had called for help, and not everyone came up to his own standard, which is shown in the seven English versions he has analyzed. Nor was handwriting always as clear as it might have been. It was noted too late, for example, that 12(b) Santali *Taljkari* should have been *Taljhari* throughout. Other transliterations are not always consistent, though Dr. Hooper has done his best to unify them.

The total result, however, will prove of outstanding value. Its particular usefulness will be for Indian translators and revisers, for whom it was written. They will now have a usable tool always at hand which will do for them what previously could only be done with difficulty, and often was not done at all.

The book will also have a wider educative value. Word comparison is a fascinating subject for many, and usually leads to more thorough Bible study. The work that Dr. Hooper has put in on the English alone will interest those with little or no knowledge of Indian languages. His own detailed comparative study of one word in various translations can be found in *The Bible Translator*, 1953, pp. 126-29.

Possibly the greatest value of the book will lie in its stimulus to future work. Already someone has said to me without any prompting: "We need a book like this for kindred African languages," and those who find it incomplete (Dr. Hooper modestly says that it is only a beginning) will be challenged to take it further, and thus make their contribution to Bible translation work. It is interesting that the Church of the Anglican Province of South Africa has almost simultaneously published a glossary of liturgical and theological terms in 14 South African languages.

We rejoice that the publication of Dr. Hooper's book brings to a climax his great services not only to the Society in India, but to the Bible Society as a whole. It is a work which will bring forth much fruit.

It has been printed privately for the Bible Society of India and Ceylon in association with the British and Foreign Bible Society. Half the edition is being shipped immediately to India for the use of translators and revisers. The balance will be shipped later, but is being held in Bible House for some months so that those interested may have an opportunity to buy copies. These are being sold at 21/-, \$3, just over actual cost price, and should be ordered direct from the Translations Department. The book, beautifully printed by the Oxford University Press, consists of xiii + 241 pp.

λόγος Logos

1. ENGLISH

(a) A.V.

word (208). Word (7). account (8). communication. cause. doctrine. saying (50). speech (8). talk. thing. matter. preaching. question. reason. rumour. show. tidings. treatise. utterance. intent.

(b) R.V.

word. Word. account. speech. cause. to speak of. speech. question. matter. reason. report. show. treatise. utterance. intent.

(c) 20th Century

word. Word. account. answer. ground. teaching. address. eloquence. question. story. message. conversation. news. reason.

(d) Weymouth

word. Word. account. language. ground. instruction. discourse. eloquence. question. statement. matter. why. message. reason. report. teachings. appearance. conversation. tidings. narrative. speech.

(e) Moffatt

word. Logos. account. answer. what you say. reason. doctrine. address. words. question. affair. religion. why. 'orally'. story. name. news. volume.

(f) Goodspeed

word. Word. account. answer. way of speaking. ground. teaching. address. language. question. report. story. movement. argument. news. volume. expression.

(g) Basic

word. Word. account. talk. cause. things about. words. question. business. news. answer. purpose.

2. ASSAMESE

baikyo [*e.g.* Jn 1¹].

3. BENGALI

bakya [*so in jn*]. kathā. bachan. bārttā. sangbād. prabandha. uttar. janarab. bisay. baktritā. bād. hetu. kāran. hisāb. nikās. ālāp.

4. GUJARATI

vacan. vāt. 'The Word' = sabda. hisāb [1 Pet 4⁵].

5. HINDI

bāt [Mt 5³⁷]. bachan [Jn 1¹⁴]. lekhā [Mt 18²³]. kāran [Mt 5³²]. charchā [Lk 5¹⁵]. kathā [1 Cor 1¹⁸ *word of the cross*].

6. KANARESE

mātu. vākya. vakyōpadēsa. vākchāturya. upadēsa. prasanga. nudi. gāde. sangati. vishaya. suddi. vārte. charitre. kārana. uttara. lekka. karya. vyavahāra. visēsha. *And some others.*

7. MALAYALAM

vakku. vachanam. thiruvachanam [Mk 2²]. pravachanam [Rev 22¹⁰]. kanakku [Mt 18²³]. kadha [Mt 28¹⁵]. (*And some twenty other renderings.*)

8. MARATHI

(a) B.F.B.S.

vacan. shabda. bolne. karan. hisheb. gosht. sandesh. vartman. prashna. batmi. bhashan. mhan. vidhan. vadanta. granth. varta. vakta. ukti. vad. kimmat. vakya. shikshan. vaktrytva. shastra. vyavhar. nav. upadash. sambandh. sangne. ji gosht sangitli hoti ti. [*See also* Mt 12³², 15²³. 1 Pet 3¹⁵. Acts 15²⁷, 10²⁹. *Not translated in* Mt 22⁴⁰. Lk 3⁴. 2 Cor 10¹¹. Acts 20³⁸].

Indian Word List

- (b) Ramabai shabda, bolne, bolnara, karan. kashasathi, hisheb. gosht. mhan. vacan. granth. vad. kimmat. vakya. upadash. bhas. zhadati. tond. sangne. [Not translated in Acts 20³⁸].
- (c) Athavle shikvan [Mt 7²⁴]. takrar [Acts 19³⁶]. kshiti (*with 'timios'*) [Acts 20²⁴]. bab [Phil 4¹⁵]. zab [Heb 4¹³]. udgar [Jn 12³⁸].
9. ORIYA bakya. katha. hisaba. utara (bisaya).
10. PANJABI
(a) Persian gall (Matt 5³⁷). kalām. lekhā (Matt 18²³).
(b) Gurumukhi bachan. gall. bolan. bāt. uttar. hisāb. lekhā. charchā. shabad. kahne. khabar. pothī. kathan. jog. dawa. ujar. updesh. āknā. sabab.
11. PASHTU kalam (*usual for God's Word*). khabara (*ordinary talk*). sabab. hisab.
12. SANTALI
(a) Benagaria 1929 katha. Rortet [Jn 1¹]. galmarao [Acts 20⁷].
(b) Taljkari 1932 katha. galmarao [Acts 20⁷].
(c) Mundari 1928 kaji. initu [Acts 20⁷].
13. SINDHI kalamu. (*For Hindus vachan.*)
14. SINHALESE vachanaya. vakyayano [Jn 1^{1 &c.}]. pravurtya [Lk 5^{15 &c.}]. ganandima (= *reckoning*) [Mt 18²³]. kāranaya (= *matter*) [Acts 15⁶]. kīma (= *saying*) [Mk 7²⁸]. *And six other words.*
15. TAMIL
(a) Fabricius 1770 vārttai [Jn 1^{1 &c.}]. sol [Mt 5³⁷]. vāy [Acts 15⁶].
(b) Bower (Union) vārttai. sol [Mt 5³⁷]. vāymoḷi. [Acts 15⁶].
(c) Larsen 1933 vārttai. pētchu [Mt 5³⁷]. vāymoḷi [Acts 15⁶].
(d) Larsen Monahan vārttai (187). vasanam (59). pētchu (16). sol (6) [Mt 5³⁷].
rev tiruvasanam (13). vākku(varam) (7), kanakku (9). kāriyam (8). *Also* moḷi, pirastābam, kēlvi, paramoḷi, upadēsam, pirapantham, pirasangam, niyāyam, vaymoḷi, vaḷakku, poruttu, sāthuriyam [1 Cor 1¹⁷], suvisēsham &c.
(e) Roman Catholic vārttaiyānavar (*personal noun*). vākkiyam [Mt 5³⁷]. vasanam [Mt 7²⁸]. vāymoḷi [Acts 15⁶].
16. TELUGU mata. vakyamu [Jn 1^{1 &c.}]. praschna [Lk 23⁹]. varthamanamu [Acts 10³⁶]. *And some twenty-one other renderings.*
17. URDU bāt *and* kalām *most frequent*. ta'lim [Heb 6¹]. zabān se &c. [Mt 8¹⁶]. amr [Acts 8²¹]. paigām [1 Cor 1¹⁶]. wajh [1 Pet 3¹⁵]. khabar [Lk 7¹⁷]. masal [Jn 4³⁷]. kahnā [Jn 4³⁹]. qaul [Jn 18⁹]. taqrīr [1 Cor 2¹]. risāla [Acts 1¹]. shīḥat kalāmī [Tit 2⁸].