
From the Editor

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Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose. The world turns, Covid-19 continues to spread and mutate and devastate individual lives and whole economies, dedicated Bible translators continue to work at their daunting task, and scholars and practitioners continue to write thoughtful material to help them. *The Bible Translator* is glad to offer another varied selection to this end. Uniquely this time, all but one of our authors are directly involved in UBS translation services.

Practical Papers

Sign language Bible translation is an increasingly important part of the task of many Bible Societies and their translation officers. **Mark Penner**, UBS Project Support Consultant for Sign Language Translations, reviews the history of publications in *The Bible Translator* on the topic of sign language translation since its first mention in 1990 and discusses the issues raised. **Yu Suee Yan**, a UBS Global Translation Advisor (GTA) based in Malaysia, takes us back to the Good News Bible and examines some of the pitfalls of the widespread use of this version as a model for translations into other languages.

Technical Papers

Robert Bascom, a GTA based in Los Angeles, California, calls for a reformulation of how we understand semantics in view of the advances in our understanding of the communication of meaning brought by cognitive approaches to linguistics.

Yousaf Sadiq, a visiting scholar at Wheaton College, Illinois, describes the long process behind the recent publication in Pakistan of the Punjabi New Testament in Persian script. Spanning several historical periods, from colonial times, through independence and partition, to the present, and grappling with variations in dialect, assumed religious context, and script, this is a complex story and one well worth spending time with.

Daniel See, Malaysia-based Head of Translation Services for the Indochina Bible Societies Cluster, has both a methodological and a language focus. He examines the usefulness to Bible translation of the Talmy-Slobin typology of motion verbs, as exemplified in the *Bup Kudus Baru*, a new translation of the Bible in Iban, a language of East Malaysia.

Marlon Winedt, a GTA based in Curaçao, in the Carribean, returns to the relationship between form and meaning in translation, but on a very wide canvas. He examines the role of culture and context in the theory and theology of translation conceived of as a multi-modal endeavour.

Simon Wong, a Hong Kong-based GTA, describes two enormous text digitization projects he has been closely involved with. As a result of these two projects, all Chinese Bibles up to 1960 (51 translations) and all dialect and minority language translations published up to 1960 (60 translations in 50 languages) are now available in digital format. This is a landmark achievement, as it represents “the largest and most systematic full-text digitization of the Bible heritage of the area ever undertaken.”

And more...

It is perhaps a little unusual (at least for this journal) that the same issue includes a review of an author’s work alongside a review *by* the same author of another’s. Here we are pleased to offer **Vitaly Voinov**’s review of *Egg Whites or Turnips: Archaeology and Bible Translation* by Paul Lawrence. This book examines a range of items in the biblical text on which archeology has shed some light which might impact Bible translation choices. This is followed by a review by **Paul Lawrence** of *A Guide to Bible Translation: People, Languages, and Topics*, edited by Phil Noss and Charles Houser. This important reference work is now available in a second edition.

That the “In Memoriam” section of the journal is becoming a regular feature marks the fact that the Bible translation world is undergoing a generational shift. When I first became an Honorary Translations Advisor within UBS in 1991, the head of Asia Pacific Translations (RETCO) was **Danny Arichea** and his multi-talented assistant was **Rosario Yu**, the regional Translation Administration Officer. And when I began editing *Practical Papers* for *The Bible Translator* in 2005, it was again Rose Yu who was my invaluable Editorial Assistant. Now they have both left us, and tributes to them are included from **Graham Ogden** (Yu) and **Daud Soesilo** (Arichea), both of whom succeeded Danny in the office of RETCO. Among the many tributes to Danny Arichea which circulated by email to friends and colleagues was one by **Basil Rebera**, retired Translation Services Director. As we were in the final stages of going to press, we learned that Basil himself had died suddenly. We have included his tribute to Danny Arichea, with the kind permission of his wife

Ranjini Rebera, and hope to pay tribute to Basil in the next issue of the journal.

The work of Bible translators around the world has benefited greatly from the UBS Handbooks, some of which have also become staple references in academic study courses as well. The editor of many of these was **Louis Dorn** and this issue also marks his passing with a tribute from his successor as Handbooks Editor, **Don Slager**.

Stephen Pattemore