The Influence of Biblical Hebrew on English

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Early Translation Methods
Source Language

Target Language

Receptors • Calque • Blending

Example of Calque
And Its Going into Common English

Geneva Bible 1560 Job 19:20

Receptoes

1. Current expressions
2. Archaisms
3. New and rare expressions

Receptors in KJB

1. Current expressions

High frequency of and
2. Archaisms

the living is my son, and the dead

Receptors in KJB

3. New Expressions

Ioseph being seueenteene yeeres old, was feeding the flocke with his brethren

OE Translations

OE Heptateuch Geo.1

Frequent Use of AND

Gen. 1:14

OE: God cwæð 9a sólice

VUL: dixit autem Deus

H B: λέγει ο Θεός said and
Repetition of the Same Head NP in Genitival Phrases

Drihten þindra fædera God þe ætywde, Abrahames God  Isaaces God  Iacobes God
*(OE Heptateuch Ex. 4:5)*

King James Bible
the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Iacob

Influence upon Biblical Texts

**PHASE I**

Case 1: Frequent occurrence or repetition

Case 2: Syntactical blending

Case 3: Reproduction or calque

Case 4: Hapax legomena

Influence beyond Biblical Texts

**PHASE 2**

Case 1: Generalization

Case 2: Acceleration of a current change

Compound Numerals

Twenty-one to Ninety-nine

OE  PE
one and twenty 二十-one

Schibbye (1977)

“The present type appeared at the end of the 15, when French influence was strong”
Hypothesis

‘ten and unit’ occurring frequently in biblical texts accelerated the change from ‘ten and unit’ to ‘ten + unit’.

Compound Numerals
Twenty-one to Ninety-nine

OE
one and twenty

PE
twenty-one

twenty and one

Shakespeare’s Works 1591-1612

Cited from Hashimoto (20002)

Wycliffite Bible c1384 Cardinals in Genesis to Daniel

Latin type: twenty one

type: twenty and one

Hebrew Cardinals in Genesis to Daniel

Type: one and twenty

Latin type: twenty and one

type: twenty and one

Latin Cardinals in Genesis to Daniel

type: twenty one

viginti unus, (Esra 2:26)

9%


Coverdale's Bible 1535 = *Biblia The Byble: that is/ the holy Scrypture of the Olde and New Testament, faythfully translated in to Englyshe*. 1535. Cologne? or Marburg? E. Cervicornus & J. Soter?


The Geneva Bible = *The Bible and Holy Scriptures Conteyned in the Olde and Newe Testament. Translated according to the Ebrue and Greke, and Conferred With the Best Translations in Divers Languages*. 1560. Geneva: Rouland Hall.

References


