TRANSLATION ANALYSIS OF CIRCUMSTANCES
IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW CHAPTER 12 THROUGH 14
FROM ENGLISH INTO INDONESIAN

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Received: 13th April 2018 / Revised: 12th September 2018 / Accepted: 25th September 2018

How to Cite: Tilusubya, B., Nababan, M., & Santosa, R. (2018). Translation analysis of circumstances in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 12 through 14 from English into Indonesian. Lingua Cultura, 12(4), 415-421.
https://doi.org/10.21512/lc.v12i4.4608

ABSTRACT

This research deployed translation of circumstances, viewed from transitivity with the descriptive qualitative method. Its objectives were to describe the translation technique of the circumstances and to evaluate the quality of the translation based on accuracy and acceptability. It utilized document analysis and focus group discussion for data collection. The data were analyzed through the domain, taxonomy, componential analysis, and finding cultural value. Meanwhile, the research indicates the application of established equivalent, combination, modulation, transposition, paraphrasing, deletion, explicitation, discursive creation, and implicitation techniques are influenced by the form of a circumstance or an adverb. Furthermore, the application of established equivalent, combination, and implicitation produces a good translation based on accuracy compared to modulation, transposition, explicitation, and paraphrasing. The research concludes that the deployment of appropriate translation techniques produces a good translation.

Keywords: circumstance, translation quality, translation technique

INTRODUCTION

In today’s globalized world, people keep searching for information because they believe information is power. People want to know what is happening in the neighborhood either politically, economically, socially, and/or religiously. Unfortunately, differences in languages and culture from one social community to another have created a gap in which the sharing of information in a smooth way that has become a problem. This problem has created the need for scholars in the linguistic field of translation to translate different materials into different accessible languages of the world, so as to bridge the gap that is caused by these language and cultural differences.

Linguists claim that the sole purpose of any translation work is the transfer of the message from the Source Text (ST) into the Target Text (TT) in a simple manner that the reader of the TT will experience the same experience as the reader of the ST that have experienced at reading the ST (House, 2015; Supatmiwati, 2013). In so doing, examining the meaning of a literary text (ST) by applying an appropriate theoretical tool before translating it can be a means to full understanding. This is because what may be thought difficult to understand is put open (Leech & Short, 2007). To achieve this purpose scholars in the field of translation have carried out a number of researches utilizing transitivity analysis which is part of the ideational metafunction of language (experiential meaning) as a tool to unfold the meaning of each clause within the text. As a tool, transitivity unlocks the text by describing the experience as a kind of process that is associated with the participants and circumstances at a clause level (Halliday, 2014). For instance in the clause, “At that time, Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus” (Bible Society of South Africa, 1971). At that time [Cir: Loc. Time] Herod the tetrarch [Part: Senser] heard [Pro: Mental] about the fame of Jesus [Phenomenon].

Previous research on translation studies that have utilized transitivity has paid much focus on processes while doing little on circumstances within the clause. One of these concludes that mental processes are used to portray the character as a thoughtful being before taking any action to avoid making avoidable mistakes. This finding agrees together with another research that compares the processes used in Malaysian and Singaporean language.
while existential processes are used to show agency in Singaporean. They further add that behavioral processes in both languages are given less emphasis (Idrus, Nor, & Ismail, 2014; Zahoor & Janjua, 2016).

Other research concludes that material process dominated in both the source text and target text, while relational processes rank the second (Behnam & Zamanian, 2015; Beji, 2016; Manggala, 2017; Nguyen, 2012; Wang, 2010). Deploying descriptive qualitative method, they add that diligence is fully supported by the material process, obedience by material, verbal, mental, relational, and behavioral are used to show kindness. Apart from that, the research on the two language culture between English and Chinese concludes that the six processes within transitivity are semantically the same in both languages (Sun & Zhao, 2012). This corresponds to another research on relational attributive clauses in narrative texts between English and Persian through transitivity, which indicates that different attributional processes in the attributive relational clauses are used in both the source text and the target text (Kaffashifalal et al., 2015).

Furthermore, the research by Chen (2014); Sabbachat, Mahdi, and Sumantri (2014) conclude that the circumstantial part of a clause is not the focus of their research, but processes to reveal that some characters are portrayed involving in some processes and not the others. Therefore, the circumstantial part of transitivity based on translation studies is the gap and the focus of this research specifically from The Gospel According to Matthew chapters 12, 13, and 14 as the source text and its Indonesian version as the target text.

Basically, the purpose of this research is to describe and explain the translation techniques of the circumstances found in the target text in relation to the source text and to evaluate the quality of the translation based on the aspects of accuracy and acceptability (Molina & Albir, 2002; Nababan, Nuraeni, & Sumardiono, 2012). The research also intends to answer the questions what type of translation techniques are deployed by the translator and the reason why its deployment in the target text. In so doing, the research provides complete information about the type of translation techniques used in the target text to those who find interests in the field of translation. It is practically expected to trigger debates and discussion amongst scholars in the field of linguistic translation either by critically supporting or criticizing the results and the suggestions that are arrived at regarding the translation of circumstances.

The linguist, Halliday (2014), claims that circumstances are names of those elements within the clause which carry semantic role but are neither processes or participants. It is one of the three elements of transitivity which is said to occur freely within the clause and more peripheral than the participant. These describe how the process is carried out and are dominated by adjuncts or prepositional phrases. Halliday (2014) categorizes these elements into nine types in accordance to their functions, namely: (1) location, (2) extent, (3) manner, (4) cause, (5) accompaniment, (6) angle, (7) contingency, (8) role, and (9) matter. For example, in the clause “But the Pharisees went out…”, the word “out” functions as a circumstance of location showing where the destination of the movement is being directed.

On the contrary to circumstances, as pioneered by Halliday, translation techniques are said to be procedures deployed by the translator to analyse and classify the equivalence or closeness of the translation in relation to the source text. Linguists, Molina and Albir (2002), provide detailed clarification on the revised 18 translation techniques. Some of those techniques are Established Equivalence, Reduction, Linguistic Amplification, Transposition, Borrowing, and Discursive Creation. For example, in chapter 12 verse 28 the author writes:

ST: “But it is by the spirit of God that I cast out demons…”

TT: “Tetapi Aku mengusir roh jahat dengan kuasa Roh Allah…”

From the example in chapter 12 verse 28, Established Equivalent in combination with Explicitation techniques are applied by the translator on the ST phrase, “…by the Spirit of God…” to have the TT phrase “…dengan kuasa Roh Allah…” Explicitation comes into target text because of the word “…kuasa…” which means that the translator clarifies to the reader that the power referred to is that which comes from God.

The final purpose of any translation process is to obtain the text that precisely renders the message as close as in the source text. In this case, equivalence becomes the fundamental criterion of translation quality because the target text has a function that is equivalent to that of the source text. For any translation to be valued quality (Nababan, Nuraeni, & Sumardiono, 2012), it has to conform to three aspects that are used as tools of assessment, namely: (1) accuracy is checking whether the source text message that is precisely rendered in the target text. (2) Acceptability is conforming the naturality of the target text in terms of grammar, rules, and the cultural aspects of that language structure. (3) Readability is checking and ensuring whether the meaning of the target text can be understood (House, 2015; Nababan, Nuraeni, & Sumardiono, 2012). This research utilizes only the two aspects of accuracy and acceptability as it is dealing with just some elements within the text and not text as a whole.

METHODS

The research employs a descriptive qualitative method because it is driven by the desire of the researcher to describe the behaviour or the phenomenon and its occurrence based on the objectives of the research (Santosa, 2017). It utilizes transitivity analysis as a tool to unlock the circumstantial elements within the selected text. In Halliday’s transitivity, the clause is classified into three categories of process, participant, and circumstance (Halliday, 2014). Thus, transitivity is applied to determine whether a certain structure within the text studied is a circumstance or not.

The problems investigated are the translation techniques and its translation quality of the identified circumstantial elements from the text. The research utilizes both primary and secondary data. Primary data includes linguistic and its translational data in forms of a word or phrase structures standing for circumstantial elements within the clauses that are extracted from chapters 12, 13, and 14 of the text of Matthew, and its translational data in forms of translation techniques in relation to its translation quality. On the contrary, secondary data are all related information (additional) and previous research that supports this research. The data are purposely sampled and then collected through document analysis and focus group discussion techniques. The sampled data are only
those clauses that contain circumstantial elements within the text. The data are extracted from the rest of the text after a thorough and intensive reading and then recorded on the separate sheet. On the other hand, the focus group discussion involves three professionals in the field of translation and the researcher himself. This activity is done in February 2018. The gathered data are then analyzed through the domain, taxonomy, componential analysis, and then the researcher determines its cultural value to arrive at a conclusion (Spradley in Santosa, 2017).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the analysis of the studied texts, there are a total number of 144 data as circumstances. These are the circumstances of location that consist of circumstances of location 97 data, manner 25 data, cause 8 data, accompaniment 9 data, and circumstances of extent 5 data. However, there are observable changes that appear in the target text as can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1 Distribution of Circumstances

| No | Circumstances | Frequency |
|----|---------------|-----------|
|    | ST | TT |
| 1  | Location     | 97 | 83 |
| 2  | Manner       | 25 | 13 |
| 3  | Cause        | 8  | 7  |
| 4  | Accompaniment| 9  | 6  |
| 5  | Extent       | 5  | 2  |
|    | Total        | 144| 111|

Table 1 indicates that in the target text (TT), circumstances of location are reduced to 83 data, manner 13 data, cause 7 data, accompaniment 6 data, and circumstance of extent reduced to 2 data. The changes that appear in the Table 1 might have been caused by a number of possible causes including structural shift due to differences in the form of the two languages (Shahrokhi & Lotfi, 2012). Because the specific objectives of this research are not to examine those changes, some few examples are provided for clarity. For instance in the two examples extracted from the Bible Society of South Africa (1971) chapter 12 verse 19 and 41:

**ST:** “He will not wrangle or cry aloud.”

**TT:** “Ia tidak akan bertengkar atau berteriak.”

In the example in chapter 12 verse 19, the bolded phrase in the source text (ST) changes it to a clause. Although the concept remains the same, the form of the ST changes from a phrase to a clause in the TT.

The translation techniques are analyzed from the target text as proposed by Molina and Albir (2002). From the componential analysis, the research indicates that the translator applies established equivalent, a combination of techniques (couplet) for example using established equivalent together with reduction techniques to translate a phrase structure, modulation, transposition, deletion, discursive creation, paraphrasing, implication, and explicitation with difference frequencies respectively. In the case of the combination of techniques, the translator applies two different techniques together to translate a certain structure that is in the form of a phrase in the source text. For instance, the combination of established equivalent together with generalization technique is applied in the following data Bible Society of South Africa (1971: 793).

**ST:** “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the bell of the whale, so will the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

**TT:** “Yunus tinggal tiga hari tiga malam di dalam perut ikan besar. Begitu juga Anak Manusia akan tinggal tiga hari tiga malam di dalam perut bumi.”

In the example in Bible Society of South Africa (1971: 793), the phrase in the TT “...ikan besar” is considered as the generalization of the source text phrase “...of the whale...” because a whale in its general sense is considered to be a big fish in the sea. Moreover, the research indicates that the use of the translation techniques is influenced by the form of the circumstance and not the type of the circumstance that is shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Distribution of Translation Techniques

| Form | Frequency |
|------|-----------|
| EE   | 69        |
| Md   | 25        |
| Cm   | 27        |
| Tr   | 7         |
| DI   | 6         |
| Ep   | 2         |
| Ip   | 2         |
| De   | 3         |
| Pr   | 3         |

From Table 2 of EE – Established Equivalence, Md – Modulation, Cm – Combination of techniques, Tr – Transposition, DI – Deletion, Ep – Explicitation, Ip –
The application of the translation techniques is influenced by the form of the circumstances and not the type of the circumstances. Thus the discussion herein focuses on the pattern of the relationship between the translation technique in relation to its form and the quality of the translation. Molina and Albir (2002) suggest that translation techniques are procedures used by the translator to analyze and classify the equivalence or the closeness of the translation in relation to the source text. It, therefore, means that the aspect of translation quality intends to determine whether the target text accurately rendered the same message as that which is found in the source text, and to determine whether the target text conforms naturally to its cultural context in the aspect of acceptability (Nababan, Nuraeni, & Sumardiono, 2012). The research reveals that the patterns of relationship are as seen in Table 3.

### Table 3 Translation Techniques on Translation Quality

| Form | T. Tec | Frequency | Accuracy | Acceptable | TQ | Frequency | Accuracy | Acceptable |
|------|-------|-----------|----------|------------|----|-----------|----------|------------|
| Word | EE    | 15/15     | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      | EE | 54/53     | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      |
|      | Md    | 2/2      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      | Md | 23/5     | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      |
|      | Dl    | 2/2      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      | Dl | 27/22     | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      |
|      | Ep    | 2/2      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      | Ep | 7/1      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      |
|      | Imp   | 1/1      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      | Imp| 1/1      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      |
|      | Dc    | 1/1      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      | Dc | 1/1      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      |
| Phrase| Tr   | 4/1      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      | Tr | 3/2      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      |
|      | Dl   | 2/2      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      | Dl | 4/1      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      |
|      | Ip   | 1/1      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      | Ip | 1/1      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      |
|      | Dc   | 2/2      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      | Dc | 1/1      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      |
|      | Pr   | 3/1      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      | Pr | 2/2      | 3/2/1    | 3/2/1      |
| Total|      | 144/101  | 39/137   | 6/1        |

From Table 3 EE = Established Equivalence, Md = Modulation, Cm = Combination of techniques, Tr = Transposition, Dl = Deletion, Ip = Implication, Ep = Explicitation, Dc = Discursive creation, and Pr = Paraphrasing. T. Tec = Translation Techniques, and TQ = Translation Quality.

The example in chapter 12 verse 40 reveals that the bolded phrase in the former TT is the equivalence of the phrase in the ST. However, the phrase in latter TT “...di dalam perut bumi.”, if literary translated will be meant “…in the stomach of the earth.” But because the language at use recognizes it as the equivalent of the phrase “…in the heart of the earth” from the ST, it is accurate and hence acceptable. Unlike the research by Manggala (2017) that claims that material processes are used to show the obedience of the character in the Malaysian language, in this case, the circumstance of location-time is used to show that the event of doing unfolded on the Sabbath day, the day that Israelites are not allowed to do hard works but worship their God. And the latter shows where the character Jesus will be staying (the heart of the earth) for three days and three nights in comparison to Jonah, the Prophet.

Another translation technique that is highly deployed by the translator is the combination technique. In this context, it is revealed that a combination of two translation techniques such as established equivalent combined with explicitation (EE & Ep) are used only to translate phrase structures. In most cases, this technique produces the translation that is accurate and acceptable except in five cases where the translation in the aspect of accuracy are less accurate but acceptable. In another word, the message in the target text in those five cases are less conforming to the source text message. For example, in chapter 12 verse 5 the author writes:

ST: “Or have you not read in the law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are guiltless?”

TT: “Atau belum pernahkah kalian membaca di dalam hukum Musa bahwa tiap hari Sabat imam-imam yang bertugas di Rumah Tuhan, melanggar peraturan hari Sabat, tetapi tidak disalahkan?”
In chapter 12 verse 5, the bolded phrase in the TT “…di dalam hukum Musa…” is a translation of the ST “…in the law…” which uses the combination of established equivalent and explicitation (reflected in “Musa”) which is not formulated in the ST. In this context, the translator is clear to a reader that the law meant by the speaker is that which is written by Moses. This is because the mental behavioural process of reading is unfolded by the author taking place in the book of the law written by Moses. The translator provides clear information to the reader of the target text.

Furthermore, the modulation technique is another technique that the translator utilizes more. Unlike established equivalent, when modulation technique is deployed, tends to change the point of views, or focus of a cognitive category in relation to source text (Molina & Albir, 2002). This means that in most cases where the technique is applied, the product in the aspect of accuracy is less accurate although acceptable. Table 3 reveals that in the form of words, the technique produces the translation which is accurate and acceptable except in the form of a phrase whereby only five data amongst 23 are accurate whilst 18 data are less accurate. However, all 23 data in the aspect of the acceptability are acceptable because the data naturally conform to the target language culture. For example, in chapter 13 verse 15 the author writes:

ST: “For this people’s heart has grown dull, and their ears are heavy of hearing, and their eyes have closed, lest they should perceive with their eyes…”

TT: “Sebab pikiran orang-orang ini sudah menjadi tumpul, telinga mereka sudah menjadi tuli dan mata mereka jangan melihat,…”

From the example in chapter 13 verse 15, in the ST clause, the phrase “…with their eyes,…” which is a circumstance of manner - as a means of perceiving, is changed into a sensor (participant) of the mental process in the TT phrase “…mata mereka…” which reduces the quality of message intended in the ST by changing the means of actualizing a mental process into a participant of the process. Darani (2014) has claimed that mental processes are used to install the thoughts of leadership in the character’s mind during the Napoleon era. This research reveals that the author applies the circumstance of means to unlock perception through the use of eyes, and when the translator deploys modulation technique changed the point of views of the source text structure as to conform to the target language structure. This concurs with Molina and Albir (2002) refer to this technique as a reduction. The application of this technique suppresses the source text information or details in the target text resulting into inaccurate and unacceptable translation because the information in the source text is omitted or left out. As a result, the target text is reduced in meaning as it lacks some details or information that are formulated in the source text. For examples, at the beginning of chapter 12 verse 1, the author begins the story by saying:

ST: “At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.”

TT: “Pada suatu hari Sabat, ketika Yesus lewat sebuah ladang gandum, pengikut-pengikut-Nya mulai memetik gandum, lalu memakananya karena lapar.”

The example in chapter 12 verse 1, the phrase “At that time…” which is formulated in the ST, is deleted or omitted in the TT. It is not reflected anywhere in the TT clause which makes it inaccurate and unacceptable. In this context, the translator is supposed to open the story with the phrase “Pada waktu itu…” to accommodate the ST phrase “At that time…”. Again in the same chapter verse 37, the author writes:
From the example in chapter 12 verse 37, the circumstance of manner – means “…by your words…” which is found in the ST, is deleted in the TT. What the translator does in the TT is to use the circumstance of cause – reason in the TT to reduce the information formulated in the ST. The translator is supposed to use the phrase “…dengan kata-katamu…” to accommodate the ST.

Furthermore, the research reveals that the translator deploys discursive creation technique. In the first instance, as Table 3 indicates, the translator applies the technique in the context where the circumstance is in the form of a word. In this context, the product in both aspects of the accuracy and acceptability of the translation quality is good. However, when the same technique is applied in the context where the circumstances (2 data) are in the form of phrases, the quality of the translation in the aspect of accuracy is inaccurate, and in the aspect of acceptability, one data is acceptable and the second data is less acceptable. This is because the translator establishes a temporary equivalence which is completely unpredictable out of context (Molina & Albir, 2002). For example, in chapter 13 verse 17 the author writes:

ST: “Truly, I say to you,…”
TT: “Ingatlah,…”

The example in chapter 13 verse 17, the ST circumstance of manner – quality reflected in the structure “Truly” which describes the quality of what is going to be spoken, is translated into “Ingatlah” in the TT structure, which reflects the mental process of thinking. This translation is inaccuracy as it does not reflect on the quality of what is going to be spoken or told. The translator is supposed to translate it into “Benar-benar,…” to suit the ST meaning.

In addition, the research reveals that the translator also uses paraphrasing technique just in the context where the circumstances are in the form of phrases as Table 3 indicates. This is done by introducing or formulating new details that are not formulated in the source text (Molina & Albir, 2002). By introducing new details in the translation, the translator aims at being clear to the reader of the target text. However, by doing so, the translation in two data amongst the three becomes less accurate, and only one data is accurate. In the case of the acceptability of the translation, all three data are acceptable. For instance, in chapter 12 verse 25 the author writes:

ST: “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste,…”
TT: “Kalau suatu negara terpecah dalam golongan-golongan yang saling bermusuhan, negara itu tidak akan bertahan,…”

From the example in chapter 12 verse 25, the bolded phrase “…against itself…” in the ST is the circumstance of cause describing the reason for the collapse of every kingdom. However, in the TT phrase, it is paraphrased into “…dalam golongan-golongan yang saling bermusuhan,…” by introducing a qualifier “…yang saling bermusuhan,…”. In fact, the TT bolded phrase itself is a circumstance of location describing a place and not a reason for an event to occur. This technique reduces the intended message in the ST clause. This distorts the accuracy of the meaning found in the source text (Nababan, Nuraeni, & Sumardiono, 2012). The correct translation of that phrase will have been “…melawan dirinya sendiri…” to accommodate the message intended in the source text.

Lastly, the research reveals again that the translator uses the expliciation technique twice in the context where the circumstances are in the form of a word. The application of this technique resulted into a translation that is less accurate in both instances, but acceptable in the aspect of acceptability. Explication technique is used when a translator makes an item that may have been implicitly used in the source text clear in the target text by either using a common term or explicating by adding some details in the TT. Contrary to the expliciation technique, the translator uses impliciation technique which is the opposite of expliciation in the sense that the directly expressed item in the source text is condensed in the target text. This technique is applied once in each form of the circumstances and resulted into the translation which is accurate and acceptable. The two examples extracted from chapter 12 verse 19 and chapter 13 verse 45 illustrate:

ST: “He will no wrangle or cry aloud, nor will any one hear his voice in the streets;…”
TT: “Ia tidak akan bertengkar atau berteriak, atau berpidato di jalan-jalan raya.”

In the ST example in chapter 12 verse 19, the word “…aloud,…” which indicates the quality in which the verbal behavioural process of crying will not be manipulated is implicitly translated as “…berteriak,…” (verbal behavioural process) in the TT. This translation renders the same message that is rendered in the source text because the process itself, in its TT culture, carries the quality of a shout or loudness. Hence the translation is accurate and acceptable. Nababan, Nuraeni, and Sumardiono (2012) support this argument when they claim that a translation is accurate and acceptable when the meaning of words and phrases are transferred accurately in the target language, and the translation sounds natural. This is what the researcher finds out. The meaning is transferred accurately, and the translation is natural in the target language.

ST: “Again,…”
TT: “Apabila Allah memerintah,…”

The ST in chapter 13 verse 45, the word “Again,…” which refers to the circumstance of extent describing frequency or repetition, is expliciated in the TT by the phrase structure “Apabila Allah memerintah,…”. Although the translator explicates it by paraphrasing the source text word ‘Again’, this lowers the message intended in the source text because the precise translation that the translator will have used is supposed to be “Sekali lagi…” or “lagi,…” to conform to the source text message. In this context, the meaning of a source text word is distorted in the target text (Nababan, Nuraeni, & Sumardiono, 2012).

CONCLUSIONS

From the translation analysis of circumstances discussed, it can be concluded that the deployment of translation techniques found in the target text is not
influenced by the type of circumstances found in the source text, but is largely influenced by the form of the circumstances. Driven by the form, the translator has to determine the application of an appropriate technique that will result in a product that is accurate and acceptable. That is why in the context where the translator can hardly figure out the appropriate technique to be applied, ended up with a translation which is less accurate, and inaccurate in the aspect of accuracy. However, most of which are acceptable in the aspect of acceptability. There are few instances in which the translation is less and unacceptable.

The researchers suggest that since this research limits itself to the translation of circumstantial elements extracted from the Gospel According to Matthew Chapter 12, 13 and 14, in the New Testament (NT), further research can be conducted on the other chapters. It is not covered from the books of the Synoptic Gospels in the Holy Bible (Revised Standard Version) to find out more on what happens to the translation of circumstances within the source text, and that, this research be used as a motivating tool towards furthering the interpretation of the Holy Bible.

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