

The Sociolinguistics of Translating Canonical Religious Texts

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Abstract

The sociolinguistics of Translating Canonical Religious Texts — Discussions of the theory and practice of translating have largely neglected the sociolinguistic factors in translating. This is particularly true in the case of religious texts, in which problems of textual variants, historical criticism, the power of tradition, the tensions between form and content, orality, format, diversities of genres, and interpretive notes play such an important role. As a result, multiple translations of such texts are generally required because of the diverse backgrounds of readers and the various uses of religious texts, for example, study, devotion, proclamation, and liturgy.

Résumé

La sociolinguistique de la traduction des textes religieux canoniques — Les facteurs sociolinguistiques sont souvent négligés dans les études théoriques et pratiques de la

traduction. C'est tout particulièrement le cas des textes religieux, où les problèmes de variantes textuelles, de critique historique, la puissance de la tradition, les tensions entre la forme et le contenu, l'oralité, la présentation du texte, les différents genres et les notes explicatives jouent un rôle très important. Il en résulte que de multiples traductions sont en général nécessaires en raison des différents arrière-plans des lecteurs et des utilisations des textes religieux (étude, prière, cérémonies, liturgie).

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