

Bible Translation: Frames of Reference

Timothy Wilt, ed. Manchester: St. Jerome. 2002

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From the Introduction (pp. ix-ii):

In 1999, during a seminar on the training of new Bible-translation consultants, it was observed that Nida and Taber's (1969) *The Theory and Practice of Translation* (TAPOT) was still considered by a significant number of people to be indicative of an organizationally supported, contemporary approach to Bible translation. Over the decades since TAPOT's appearance, many publications on translating the Bible and secular literature have indicated ways in which TAPOT is limited, dated or untenable, and have presented enlarged or alternative perspectives. But these more recent studies have often focused on a particular academic sub-field or on translations in a particular language. Those attending the seminar concluded that it would be helpful to have a book providing a general perspective on Bible translation at the turn of the twenty-first century, in part by indicating important developments since the appearance of TAPOT. *Bible Translation: Frames of Reference* attempts to offer this.

The primary audience envisioned by the contributors are consultants-in-training whose specialty in one academic area needs to be complemented by studies in other areas particularly pertinent to Bible translation. Each chapter is intended not for the specialist in the area discussed, but for those who would benefit from an introduction to issues and tools for study in that area. This approach opens the book to a larger audience of students, publishers and users of Bible translations....

- A key theme of this book is the importance of a holistic approach to translation:
- viewing the translation project in terms of its community, organizational and sociocultural settings;
 - viewing the translation product as part of a larger communicative process;
 - viewing translation as an interdisciplinary subject;
 - viewing textual parts in terms of textual wholes;
 - viewing form and content, structure and function, as together contributing to the meaning of texts;
 - viewing informative and imperative functions of texts in relation to other functions, especially the aesthetic and ritual functions of scriptural texts.

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(Presentation of the editor's outline has been modified for this website presentation)

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Aloo Osotsi Mojola and Ernst Wendland

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