

Duvall Essay #1

The history of the translation of the Bible is full of blood. I didn't have an idea of this before I read Duvall's book. Many martyrs gave up their lives for the cause of spreading the Word of God by translating the Bible from its original languages into Latin and from Latin into English. Today, it is easy for us to get a copy of the Bible almost everywhere around the world. Knowing some of the biblical translations' histories will make us no longer take everyday Bible reading for granted anymore. We can read the Bible because there were people who have paid the price for us.

Generally speaking, there are two main approaches to translating the Bible, the first one a more formal approach that tries to be as accurate as possible to the original structure and words of the source language. The other is a more functional approach that tries to express the meaning of the original text in today's languages. As a matter of fact, the approaches mentioned above are always trying to find the point of balance for a better way to convey the Word.

To an ordinary Bible reader, translation of the Bible's original language into today's is a priority, for modern languages that we know well and of course are easier for us to understand. To a reader who desires to turn from superficial to serious reading, it is better to refer widely to other contemporary and previous editions.