

# **Contributions of the Institute for Biblical Text Research to Bible Translation and Proposals for Its Future**

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## **1. Introduction**

It is certainly a valuable endeavor that the leaders of the Nida Institute and the Institute for Biblical Text Research (IBTR) gather together to review the trajectories of their institutions and to discuss the promising works for their future. The topic given to me in this workshop is to review the contributions of the Institute for Biblical Text Research to Bible translation. Therefore, I want to review the various works of the institute from the past to the present and pinpoint some of its commendable results. In addition, I propose some of the meaningful works that could be achieved by the institute in order to widen its ministries. For the latter purpose, it is very useful to benchmark some of the works already in progress by the Nida Institute and the United Bible Societies.

## **2. The Purpose of the IBTR and its Visible Results**

The best way to discuss the IBTR's contributions toward Bible translations is to look into the purpose of the institute and its detailed activities. The purpose of the institute is listed on its website as follows:

The Institute for Biblical Text Research was opened to facilitate a more effective use of the Information Resource Center for Biblical Studies of the Korean Bible Society. It aims to promote biblical studies in Korea, and to instrumentally support the core mission of the Korean Bible Society, which is to translate, publish, distribute, and to facilitate the use of the Holy Scriptures.<sup>1)</sup>

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1) "Institute for Biblical Text Research", <http://www.koreanbible.or.kr/bibleuse/?m=2> (2016. 6. 7).

In order to achieve this purpose, the IBTR

... aims to support academic researches of scholars in Korea and abroad in the areas of biblical languages like Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, etc. and languages like Arabic, Ethiopic, Latin, Coptic, Syriac, Armenian, Georgian, Slavic which are related to ancient translations; and in the fields of studying the history of Bible texts, biblical manuscripts, Bible translation, etc.<sup>2)</sup>

In addition, the IBTR is continually reviewing and revising

existing translations published by the Korean Bible Society such as the Revised Version, Common Translation, New Korean Standard Version, etc. It also searches for problems of existing problems, and prepares resource papers for revision.<sup>3)</sup>

Through the works of the IBTR, “the Korean Bible Society seeks to prepare the manpower needed to revise existing translations or to do a new translation of the Bible”.<sup>4)</sup> The IBTR also aims “to accumulate the knowledge base for [the] translation/revision projects for [the] next generation”.<sup>5)</sup>

## **2.1. The Publication of The Journal of Biblical Text Research (JBTR)**

The IBTR has accomplished many of the abovementioned goals through the publication of the *JBTR*. The *JBTR* has been published semiannually since 1997. Even though the latest volume is numbered 38th, the journal has actually published forty-one volumes, including three extra volumes.<sup>6)</sup> Detailed descriptions of the purpose of the IBTR are provided in the *JBTR*'s “Instructions for Contributors” attached at the end of each journal. The “Manuscript Subject and Scope” section of the “Instructions for Contributors” best describes the purpose of the IBTR.

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2) Ibid.

3) Ibid.

4) Ibid.

5) Ibid.

6) *Journal of Biblical Text Research* 201 (2007), 241 (2009), and 311 (2012).

- 1) Articles by scholars in Korea and abroad that will be published in the Journal are as follows:
  - ① Articles that contribute to better understanding of the biblical text
  - ② Articles that contribute to Bible translation
- 2) Articles that discuss the following detailed list of subjects will be published:
  - ① Research on biblical texts and biblical languages like Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, etc., ancient Bible translations, and modern Bible translations
  - ② Research on relevant languages like Arabic, Ethiopic, Latin, Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, Georgian, Slavic, etc.
  - ③ Research on textual criticism and its history, biblical manuscript studies, Bible translation studies, etc.<sup>7)</sup>

Since its first publication in 1997, the journal has been the sole arena for introducing the principles and practical examples of Bible translations, setting the scholarly foundations for the various Korean Bible translations. Furthermore, it has become an important channel through which many biblical scholars could present their scholarly works in relation to Bible translations. Due to its scholarly depth, the *JBTR* became a Korea Citation Index (KCI) accredited journal by the National Research Foundation of Korea. As a result, many biblical scholars have contributed their knowledge and research to the journal.

## **2.2. Bible Translation Consulting for Many Countries in Asia**

Some of the biblical scholars who have contributed greatly to the establishment of the IBTR have also provided consulting to other Asian biblical scholars regarding the translation of the Bible in their respective languages. For example, Dr. Young Jin Min, who was the first dean of the IBTR and a Bible Translation Consultant of the UBS, assisted in translating the Bible into the following languages: Mongolian, Lao, Rade (a language of an ethnic minority in Vietnam), Bunong (a language of an ethnic minority in Vietnam and Cambodia), and Khmer (the official language of Cambodia). In addition, Dr. Ji-Youn Cho, who is the manager of the translation department at the Korean Bible Society,

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7) “*Journal of Biblical Text Research* Instructions for Contributors”, <http://www.bskorea.or.kr/organ/sourcelab/ie.pdf> (2016. 6. 10). Cf. *JBTR* 38 (2016), 265.

has been offering consulting for translating the Bible into the Pao language (a language of an ethnic minority in Myanmar) since December of 2011.

### 2.3. Direct Contribution to Various Korean Bible Translations

When we discuss the various contributions the IBTR has made toward Bible translations, we should not overlook the fact that many of the biblical scholars who have presented their papers through the *JBTR* have also directly participated in various translations and publications of the Korean Bible. Some examples of these Korean versions include the Korean New Testament or New Translation (1967), the Common Translation of the Holy Bible (1977/1999), the Revised New Korean Standard Version (1993), the New Translation (2001), and the New Korean Translation (a tentative name), which is in development. Regardless of which version, most scholars who have participated in the translations are committee members of, or contributors to, the *JBTR*. More specifically, twelve scholars who have participated in the translation and publication of the Revised New Korean Standard Version (1993) have also published a total of fifty-three articles in the *JBTR*. Some of these scholars have alone published ten to fifteen articles in the *JBTR*. Ten scholars who have participated in the translation of New Korean Revised Version (1998) published a total of twenty-nine papers in the *JBTR*, and some of them wrote eleven papers in it. Four scholars who have participated in the Revised New Korean Standard Version (2001) have also published thirty-seven articles in the *JBTR*, and three of them have written over ten articles in it. One of the most encouraging facts is that at least thirty-four scholars who have been participating in the New Korean Bible translation project since 2012 have also published 112 articles in the *JBTR*.<sup>8)</sup> The topics of these articles vary from ancient translations and manuscripts of the Bible and the meanings of biblical texts and original words, to various textual critical studies, and the principles and practical examples of Bible translations, which have all provided precious resources to improve the

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8) Some of the scholars mentioned here have participated in the translations and revisions of three Korean translations. Still, other scholars participated in the translation and revision processes of two Korean translations. Most of the scholars who have presented more than ten articles in the *JBTR* have also participated in the translations and revisions of more than two Korean translations.

translation processes.

## 2.4. The Korean Translation Workshops (KTW)

The IBTR has held the Korean Translation Workshop (KTW) in 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2009. The purpose of the KTWs is as follows:

The purpose of KTW is to heighten the interests of the Bible translation and to cultivate talented people who can participate in the works of translation and revision of the Bible through educating the principles and praxis of the Bible translation to the younger biblical students. It is especially designed to cultivate young scholars who can participate in the Bible translations and revisions for the next generation, who have already studied Hebrew exegesis or Greek exegesis.<sup>9)</sup>

The United Bible Societies (UBS) Fellowship has supported these KTWs by sending translation consultants from the Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and the Americas as lecturers. Participants from the UBS evaluated that these workshops have achieved the following:

- Build the intellectual legacy for our next generation
- Enhance the understanding of Bible translation of Korean churches
- Cultivate human resources to translate/review Bible translation for the next generation
- Facilitate interdenominational scholarly dialogues on Bible translation<sup>10)</sup>

Directors of the Japan Bible Society (JBS) and the Bible Society of Myanmar (BSM) have also attended these workshops. After returning to Japan, the director of the JBS organized a similar workshop in Japan. Furthermore, in 2012, Khoi Lam Thang, the General Secretary of the BSM, used the materials from KTWs for the BSM's first Bible translation workshop that was designed to translate the Bible into the languages of Pao, Zaiwa, and Lautu. Therefore, one

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9) "The Purpose of the Korean Translation Workshops", <http://www.bskorea.or.kr/organ/sourcelab/labsource.aspx?nidx=27&CurrentPage=2&SearchKey=all&SearchText> (2016. 6. 13). Quoted from the introductory remarks of *JBTR* 12 (2003).

10) Brochure of Workshop 2003-2009, the IBTR.

can say that the KTWs certainly contributed not only to the translations of Korean Bibles but also to the translations of the Bible into other Asian languages.

In fact, there was an important meeting in Seoul in August 2000, which became the crucial foundation for the following KTWs. When the Committee on Scholarly Editions members of the UBS met in Seoul, the IBTR asked those renowned scholars, such as Dr. Barbara Aland and Dr. Adrian Schenker (editors of NTG and BHQ), Harold Scanlin, Philip A. Noss, Manuel Jinbachian, and Plutarco Bonilla, to give special lectures on Bible translation and textual criticism to pastors and seminary students so as to arouse their interest in Bible translation.<sup>11)</sup> Hundreds of pastors, seminary students and biblical scholars attended the meeting and learned from internationally renowned biblical scholars the principles and practical ways of translating and revising the Bible. Therefore, this event should also be considered an important contribution made by the Korean Bible Society and the IBTR towards the translations and revisions of Korean Bibles.

### 3. Analysis of the *JBTR*

The best way to evaluate the contributions of the IBTR to Bible translations may be through examining the articles in the *JBTR*. In other words, a crucial barometer for judging whether the IBTR is working in accordance with its said purpose is the articles published by the *JBTR*. Therefore, I tried to analyze all of the articles published in the *JBTR* volumes 1 through 38 according to their subjects and scopes as described in the “Instructions for Contributors” section of the *JBTR*. By examining the articles, one can evaluate whether the detailed set of purposes of the IBTR is being met.<sup>12)</sup>

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11) Papers presented at the meeting by Barbara Aland and Adrian Schenker were included in *JBTR* 7 (2000).

12) In the process of analyzing all the articles published by the *JBTR* according to their subjects and scopes, I decided not to mention the name of each writer or topic of the article. The reason is simple. If I conclude that some articles are not related to the main subject and scope specified by the *JBTR* and also mention the names of these articles and writers, I may certainly degrade their scholarly efforts and disgrace them. Furthermore, I may not be able to handle the harsh responses from them.

Based on the manuscript subject and scope of “Instructions for Contributors” of the *JBTR*, I divided the journal articles into the following seven categories:

- I. Research on biblical texts and biblical languages like Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, etc.
- II. Research on ancient Bible translations
- III. Research on the study of Korean Bible translation
- IV. Research on relevant languages like Arabic, Ethiopic, Latin, Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, Georgian, Slavic, etc.
- V. Research on diverse biblical criticisms and history
- VI. Research on biblical manuscript studies
- VII. Research on the study of Bible translations

A diagram illustrating the number of articles in each volume of the *JBTR* that belongs to each category is attached at the end of this article. From analyzing all *JBTR* articles according to the above categories, I come up with the following observations.

- (1) Articles on biblical texts and biblical languages like Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, etc., can be divided into two groups. The first group analyzes sentences or words of biblical texts that are considered newly interpreted or translated. The second group studies the original languages for certain biblical sentences or words in doing textual criticism in order to have a comprehensive understanding of select biblical passages. Therefore, the articles in the former group show more in-depth analyses of the original languages of certain sentences or words. Both groups, however, offer productive suggestions for better translations than the currently existing ones.
- (2) Articles on ancient Bible translations consist of studies of the Septuagint itself or comparative studies between the Septuagint and Masoretic texts or Qumran texts, or of comparative studies of the meanings of the Septuagint, the Vulgate, the Targum, etc., which are mentioned in the critical apparatuses of specific biblical texts.
- (3) Articles on Korean Bible translations mainly show comparative studies of the Korean New Testament, the New Translation, the Common

Translation of the Holy Bible, the Revised New Korean Standard Version and the New Translation as well as various English versions. These comparative studies suggest a better translation in the process of analyzing literary and rhetorical devices or newly interpreting theological meanings of specific biblical texts. Therefore, these articles are directly or indirectly related not only to the studies of biblical texts and biblical languages but also to the studies of diverse biblical criticisms and history of criticisms. Another group of articles is focused on reviewing the peculiarities and diverse principles of translations, and their influences for the later Korean translations. Along with these, some articles point out expressions that should be reconsidered according to the Korean grammar or honorific mood or in the perspectives of women or disabled persons. In addition, some articles suggest transitions toward easier expressions that should be made for future generations.

- (4) There are only three articles on the studies of relevant languages like Arabic, Ethiopic, Latin, Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, etc. The “Instructions for Contributors” section of the *JBTR* in Korean and English is somewhat vague. I assume that the original intention of the *JBTR* was to accept articles that proposed some of the peculiar aspects of Bible translations written in Arabic, Ethiopic, Latin, Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, Georgian, Slavic, etc. Current manuscripts’ subject and scope do not fully accomplish this purpose.
- (5) In the process of suggesting new theological understandings and instructions, the majority of these articles offer possibilities for new translations by applying various interpretative methods such as textual, redactional, form critical, literary, sociological, rhetorical and structural criticism. These articles, however, focus on demonstrating the literary and structural excellence of the biblical text or to offer new theological meanings by applying literary, rhetorical, structural and linguistic criticism that comply with the main trends in biblical hermeneutics. As a result, some of the articles stray away from the basic purpose of the *JBTR*, which aims to contribute to the better understanding of the biblical text or pave the way for better translations by exercising textual critical methods as well as biblical manuscript studies.

I found a reason why some contributors of the *JBTR* have strayed away from the journal's basic purpose. On a closer look, the Korean version of the "Instructions for Contributors" section of the *JBTR* is slightly different from the English version as far as the fifth manuscript subject and scope are concerned. The Korean version translates to "research on criticism of biblical text and its history" while the English version limits the scope to the "research on textual criticism and its history." The fifth manuscript subject and scope in English define more specifically that articles should concentrate on the *textual* criticism of specific texts and its historical transitions in order to offer better understandings of the meanings and to propose better translations of the texts. The Korean version, however, is not clear enough as to what kind of criticism scholars should employ when writing articles for the *JBTR*. Therefore, if the *JBTR* wants to remain as a journal that contributes to better understandings of biblical texts and offer practical assistance in Bible translations distinct from the Korean Journal of Old Testament Studies or Evangelical Old Testament Studies, the manuscript subject and scope should also be made more distinct.

- (6) Most of the articles on biblical manuscript studies introduce textual apparatuses of BHS, BHQ and the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of *Novum Testamentum Graece* by Nestle-Aland's. In addition, as for the Old Testament, the comparative studies of Qumran texts, Masoretic texts and the Septuagint are dominant. As for the New Testament, the studies of Q source are many in numbers.
- (7) As for the category of Bible translation studies, I first included articles that discuss the principles of Bible translation. In addition, articles that consider diverse ways of effectively delivering biblical texts to various generations in the age of multi-media are included in this category. Furthermore, articles that introduce and evaluate Bible translations in the United States, Germany, France, China, etc. are also included in this category.
- (8) According to my analysis of all the articles in the *JBTR*, articles that study specific biblical texts with interests in biblical criticisms and history appear the most (184 articles). Next in number are articles that study

Korean Bible translations as well as articles that study Bible translations. Both groups of articles are numbered at 180 each. Next in number are articles on the study of biblical texts and biblical languages like Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, etc. Articles in this category are counted 143 times. There are fifty-five articles on biblical manuscript studies, and forty-five articles on ancient Bible translations. There are only three articles that study relevant languages like Arabic, Ethiopic, Latin, Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, Georgian, Slavic, etc.<sup>13)</sup>

After this analytical examination of all articles in the *JBTR*, I conclude that for the last twenty years, the *JBTR* has been publishing articles that are in accord with the purpose of its publication. In other words, articles in the *JBTR* offer suggestions for better translations and interpretations of biblical texts by using various methods of interpretation such as textual criticism, redaction criticism, literary criticism, rhetorical criticism, sociological criticism, archaeological study, comparative literary study, etc. In addition, many of these articles contribute not only to better translations of Korean Bibles but also to the enhancement of the study of Bible translation through research on various ancient Bible translations as well as ancient and medieval manuscripts.

- (9) However, I also find that some articles published since 2006 are far from the basic purpose of the *JBTR*. Some articles try to suggest distinctive theology of some biblical texts or words through hermeneutical, redactional, linguistic, form critical studies. Other articles contain diverse and in-depth information about biblical Hebrew grammars. Articles on the comparative studies between biblical texts and ancient Near Eastern texts or studies on the ancient texts that are not included in the Bible are published in the *JBTR* without specific mention of their relatedness to Bible translations or better understanding of biblical texts. I hope the *JBTR*'s editors reconsider this fact seriously as to remind the journal contributors of the fundamental purpose of the *JBTR*.

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13) In the process of analyzing the articles in the *JBTR*, if articles were related to more than one subject and scope listed in "Instructions for Contributors", I included those articles in every related category.

#### 4. Proposals for the Future Ministry of the IBTR

It goes without saying that the IBTR has been contributing enormously to the publications of Korean Bible translations by providing scholarly foundations through the studies of original languages, textual criticism, principles and praxis of the Bible translations in the *JBTR*. Furthermore, the discussions on using effective media to pass on the Bible to the next generation as well as various groups of readers are another valuable contribution of the IBTR. Another important contribution of the IBTR is the organization of the KTWs for biblical scholars and seminary students as well as consulting leaders from many Asian countries in Bible translations. However, I would like to offer some proposals to the IBTR in order to widen its ministries for the future. I am certain that the best way to come up with practical proposals is to benchmark some of the ministries of the Nida Institute and the UBS, which have been contributing to Bible translations internationally for a longer period of time than the IBTR.

- (1) Recently, the Nida Institute started an international center for translation studies, providing translation training and publishing services at San Pellegrino University in Italy. Students who study in this program are able to earn accredited academic credits from the European Union as well as scholarships and bursaries. This program offers a positive tip for the IBTR to have close connections with many seminaries in Korea so that the institute could open up lectures on the study of Bible translations. Taking a step forward, the IBTR might consider starting a department of Bible translation in some seminaries.<sup>14)</sup> In addition, just as the Nida Institute collaborates with Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (GCTS) to offer a D. Min. program in Bible translation, the IBTR may also start a D. Min. program in Bible translation in some Korean seminaries in order to train and educate pastors and seminary students to be experts on Bible translation.<sup>15)</sup> These kinds of endeavors may be realized with great potential since many of the editing committee members of the *JBTR* are

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14) "Nida School of Translation Studies", <http://www.nidainstitute.org/NSTS> (2016. 6. 18).

15) "Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship", <http://www.nidainstitute.org/professional-development> (2016. 6. 15).

not only professors but also leading administrators at various seminaries. If their interests for the study of Bible translation and their leadership abilities in seminary administration can be combined with scholarly and financial support from the IBTR and the KBS, the results may be quite promising.

- (2) The staffs of the Nida Institute present the Nida Lecture series annually at international meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature.<sup>16)</sup> They not only teach biennially at three Pontifical universities in Rome but also give lectures in the Evangelical School of Theology in Wroclaw, Poland and Trinity Theological College in Hong Kong.<sup>17)</sup> Therefore, the IBTR scholars, the JBTR editors and scholars who are experts in Bible translation also need to participate in various theological societies such as the Korea Association of Christian Studies, the Korean Society of Old Testament Studies, the Korean Society of New Testament Studies, Evangelical Old Testament Society and Evangelical New Testament Society so that they present articles on the subject of Bible translation. Furthermore, the committee members of the *JBTR* and scholars who recognize the importance of teaching Bible translation may suggest to the leaders of those societies to select Bible translation as the central topic of some of their scholarly meetings.
- (3) The translation program of the UBS provides a wide range of academic references and journals for Bible translators of the present and the future. Some of the leading references and journals are as follows: *UBS Handbook Series*, *the Bible Translator* (journal), *Hebrew Old Testament Text Project*, Greek New Testament references such as *A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*, *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*, Latin Texts, Syrian Texts, UBS Technical Helps such as *The Works of Their Hands: Man-made Things in the Bible*, *All Creatures Great and Small: Living Things in the Bible*, *Each According to Its Kind: Plants and Trees in the Bible*, *The Bible Lands as Classroom* (DVD), *Fauna and Flora of the Bible*, *Hebrew*

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16) Ibid.

17) Ibid.

*Poetry in the Bible: A Guide for Understanding and for Translating, Marginal Notes, New Testament Index, Old Testament Quotations in the New Testament, The Theory and Practice of Translation, Issues in Bible Translation, etc.*<sup>18)</sup> In this way, the KBS and the IBTR also need to publish various references and books in order to help pastors and seminary students improve their understanding of biblical information and their practical skills of translating the Bible for the next generation.

More importantly, many scholarly works published in the *JBTR* such as research on biblical texts and languages, ancient Bible translations, comparative studies on the ancient Bible translations and ancient manuscripts, textual apparatuses and the masora of BHS, BHQ, and *Hebrew University Bible* (HUB) should be expanded to the entire Bible. For example, articles in the *JBTR* that explain the meanings of textual apparatuses of some passages of BHS or BHQ or HUB or *Novum Testamentum Graece* by Nestle-Aland should be expanded to the study the whole book.<sup>19)</sup> My wish is to see that a whole series of books, like the *UBS Handbook Series*, might be published in the future by Korean biblical scholars. The series would include a collection of studies on biblical texts and biblical languages, comparative studies of ancient Bible translations and manuscripts and textual criticism. In addition, I hope to see that the KBS and the IBTR not only translate and publish various Korean Bible

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18) Among the books above, *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament, The Works of Their Hands: Man-made Things in the Bible*, and *Each According to Its Kind: Plants and Trees in the Bible*, have been translated into Korean: B. M. Metzger, 『신약 그리스어 본문 주석』(*A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*), Dongsoo Chang, trans. (Seoul: Korean Bible Society, 2005); Ray Pritz, 『성서 속의 물건들』(*The Works of Their Hands: Man-made Things in the Bible*), Chang-Nack Kim, et al., trans. (Seoul: Korean Bible Society, 2011); Robert Koops, 『성서 속의 식물들』(*Each According to Its Kind: Plants and Trees in the Bible*), Sung-Dal Kwon, trans., Gyu Young Chung, review (Seoul: Korean Bible Society, 2015). Furthermore, the DVD series of *The Bible Lands as Classroom*, scripted by Krijin van der Jagt and Ray Pritz, has been translated into Korean and produced by KBS with the title of 『성서의 땅을 찾아서: 성경 번역자를 위한 비디오』.

19) For example, the meanings of textual apparatuses of the Book of James in the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of *Novum Testamentum Graece* by Nestle-Aland were explained by Dr. Chang-Nack Kim in volumes three and four of the *JBTR*. The meanings of textual apparatuses of the Psalms in BHS were described by Dr. Jung Woo Kim in the same volumes. The meanings of textual apparatuses in the Book of Ruth in BHQ were explained by Dr. Young Jin Min in volume 4. In addition, the meanings of textual apparatuses of the Book of Jeremiah in HUB were introduced by Dr. Donghyun Park in volume three of the *JBTR*.

translations but also publish diverse references such as a Bible dictionary, Hebrew dictionary, Greek dictionary, Bible atlas and histories of the Old Testament and New Testament, etc. for the ones who want to study and translate the Bible correctly.

## 5. Conclusion

After reviewing the trajectories of the IBTR and the *JBTR*, I would like to conclude this article with highly commending remarks. All of the determination and hard work put in by the leaders of the IBTR and the scholarly research done by the contributors of the *JBTR* should be appreciated by all readers of various Korean Bible translations. Revelation 1:3 says, “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.” If I may, I want to interpret this passage by including one more group of persons: “blessed are the ones who study and translate the words of this prophecy.” I hope, therefore, that Korean churches, in general, and the KBS, in particular, encourage and support the works of the IBTR continually and more abundantly for its promising ministries in the future.

### 〈Keywords〉

Bible translation, Korean Bible translations, Masoretic texts (BHS, BHQ, HUP), *Novum Testamentum Graece* by Nestle-Aland, textual critical apparatuses.

성경 번역, 한국어 성경 번역들, 맞소라 성경(BHS, BHQ, HUP), 그리스어 신약성경(*Novum Testamentum Graece* by Nestle-Aland), 본문비평장치.

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<Abstract>

## **Contributions of the Institute for Biblical Text Research to Bible Translation and Proposals for Its Future**

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This article was originally presented at the Collaborative Workshop between the Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship and the Institute for Biblical Text Research (IBTR), on July 8th, 2016 in Seoul, Korea. The main purpose of this article is to review the IBTR's contributions to Bible translation and to propose some meaningful ways through which the institute can widen its ministries.

After introducing the various purposes of the IBTR, the writer describes the IBTR's four main contributions to Bible translation: (1) the publication of *The Journal of Biblical Text Research (JBTR)*; (2) Bible Translation consulting for many countries in Asia; (3) direct contribution to various Korean Bible translations, such as the Korean New Testament or New Translation (1967), the Common Translation of the Holy Bible (1977/1999), the Revised New Korean Standard Version (1993), the New Translation (2001), and the New Korean Translation (a tentative name), which is in development.; and (4) the Korean Translation Workshops (KTW).

In the main section of this article, the writer analyzes all articles published in the *JBTR* according to their stated subjects and scopes in order to evaluate whether the detailed set of purposes of the IBTR is being met. A diagram illustrating the number of articles in each volume of the *JBTR* that belongs to each category is attached at the end of this article. After the analysis, the writer produces crucial observations in relation to Korean Bible translations, studies on biblical texts and languages, biblical criticisms, and the study of Bible translations in general.

In the final section, the writer offers some proposals for the IBTR to widen its ministries in the future. For this purpose, the writer benchmarks some of the ministries of the Nida Institute and the United Bible Societies.



Category		17	18	19	20	201	21	22	23	24	241	25	26	27	28	29	30
Volume																	
I.	Research on biblical texts and biblical languages like Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, etc.	3		2	3	1	2	3	2	6	2	3	3	3	4	3	6
II.	Research on ancient Bible translations		1	1	1		2	3		1		1	2				1
III.	Research on the study of Korean Bible translation	5	3	4	2		2	3	2	5	1	6	2	5	8	3	7
IV.	Research on relevant languages like Arabic, Ethiopic, Latin, Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, Georgian, Slavic, etc.			1													
V.	Research on diverse biblical criticisms and history	4	2	4	7	1	4	4	5	8	9	2	5	8	5	4	3
VI.	Research on biblical manuscript studies	1	1	1	1		1	1	4		1	2			1		
VII.	Research on the study of Bible translations	6	3	9	12	1	4	3	5	8	12	4	2	2	1	5	5
	Articles not related to the above categories			1	1	1	1	1				1	3	1	1	3	1

<b>Volume</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>Total</b>
I.	Research on biblical texts and biblical languages like Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, etc.	5	11	7	4	7	10	8	4	3	143
II.	Research on ancient Bible translations	2		1	1	1	1	2	1		45
III.	Research on the study of Korean Bible translation	2	17	5	3	8	5	5	4	3	180
IV.	Research on relevant languages like Arabic, Ethiopic, Latin, Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, Georgian, Slavic, etc.		1								3
V.	Research on diverse biblical criticisms and history	6	11	6	4	7	10	8	9	2	184
VI.	Research on biblical manuscript studies	1			2		1	2	1	1	53
VII.	Research on the study of Bible translations	2	6	3	3	5	4	7	5	4	170
	Articles not related to the above categories	1		1	1	3	2	6	5	4	39