

Literary Aesthetics and Bible Translation with special reference to Translation of the Book of Genesis into the Sango Language

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ABSTRACT

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Two important facts have marked translations of the Bible since the beginning of the 1970s: on the one hand the results from the literary approach of Bible texts, grouped under what is called the New Literary Criticism (Nouvelle Critique Littéraire), increasingly invited to take into account again the literalness of the texts in the process of exegeses and of biblical translation. One of the consequences of work on the poetry of the Bible is, as Alfred Kuen observes, to "value the form adopted by the divine inspiration and the work of the inspired writer." ("valorisation de la forme que l'inspiration divine a adoptée et le travail de l'auteur inspiré"). On the other hand, research on the texts of a certain number of receiving cultural systems hint at the possibility of existing elements in their repertoires susceptible to "grasp" the hearts of the receivers with more or less the same force as those of the repertoires of the literary biblical systems. Starting with a case study of the recitals in Genesis in the Sango literary system (Central African Republic), this work touches upon the question of the search for the equivalent of the form of the biblical text in the receiving literary system.

This work is worth recommending to all those who are interested in Bible translation because of the meaningfulness and the usefulness of the subject as well as the new ideas proposed by the author with regard to the translation of the Bible into African languages.

Born in 1954 in Kaga Bandora, in the Central African Republic, Pastor David Koudougouret studied theology at the Bangui Evangelical School of Theology, in the Central African Republic. From 1980 through 1994 he worked at the Central African Bible Society with the Sango Bible Translation Project, first as a translator and later he coordinated the exegetical work. Since 1998 he is Director of Academic Affairs at the Bangui Evangelical School of Theology.