

St. Jerome's Approach to Word-for-Word and Sense-for-Sense Translation¹

Prof.

Kadhim Khalaf Al-Ali

University of Basra/ College of Arts

Researcher

Lamya Rasheed Majid

Abstract

St. Jerome's major contribution to the field of translation is his introduction of the terms word-for-word and sense-for-sense. These two terms were later to be adopted by many translators, opening the heated debates in the coming centuries. Though the terms dated back to Cicero and Horace, St. Jerome is still credited for kindling the argument. The purpose of this paper is to examine how St. Jerome, through his letter to Pammachius (Letter 57) entitled "On the Best Method of Translation, approached the word-for-word and sense-for-sense translation, what difficulties the translators face when translating, and how aimed at reinforcing the reasons behind his new Latin translation of the Old and New Testaments: the Vulgate.

Keywords: St. Jerome, Pammachius, Letter 57, word-for-word, sense-for-sense, Vulgate, sacred text, non-sacred text.