

Lesson 2: Comparing texts and translations (a): basic analysis

Pater noster: The Lord's Prayer in Latin (with word-for-word interlinear 'translation')

Note: 'Boxed' material comes from Unit 1 of the Latin course VVV by Prof. J.G.F. Powell, University of London Royal Holloway, and is used with his permission.

Pater noster, qui es in caelis,
Father our, who are in heavens,
sanctificetur nomen tuum,
may-(it)-be-sanctified name your,
veniat regnum tuum,
may-(it)-be-sanctified name your, may-(it)-come kingdom your,
fiat voluntas tua, sicut in caelo, et in terra.
*may-(it)-be-sanctified name your, may-(it)-be-done will your, just-as in
heaven, also in earth.*

Panem nostrum cotidianum da nobis hodie,
may-(it)-be-sanctified name your, Bread our daily give to-us today,
et dimitte nobis debita nostra,
may-(it)-be-sanctified name your, and let-off for-us debts our,
sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris.
may-(it)-be-sanctified name your, just-as also we let-off for-debtors our.
Et ne nos inducas in tentationem,
may-(it)-be-sanctified name your, And not us lead-in into temptation,
sed libera nos a malo.
may-(it)-be-sanctified name your, but free us from evil.

Translation A The Jerusalem Bible

Our Father in heaven, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven those who are in debt to us. And do not put us to the test, but save us from the Evil One.

Translation B The New International Version

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Translation C Trans by: R.A. Knox

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Translation D

Note:

This prayer comes from a 4th C Latin version of the Bible (the passage is Matthew ch. 6 vv.9 - 13), which later formed the basis of the version known as the "Vulgate". This Latin version was in fact itself a translation, by St. Jerome, of the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament. A literal translation of the original Greek of our current passage is given below. The Latin Vulgate became the version of the Bible in widespread use across Europe at least until the Reformation (and often beyond); the Jerusalem Bible (A above), unlike the greater majority of English versions of the Bible, is a translation of St. Jerome's Latin, rather than of the Greek. In the case of this prayer, the Latin is very close to the Greek, and has similar differences from the English versions.

Gospel of St. Matthew, 6.9 - 13: 'literal' translation of the Greek

Father of us, the one in the heavens:

let [it] be made holy your name;

let [it] come into being your will,

as in heaven also on earth.

Our bread for the coming day give us today;

and send away/remit for us our debts,

as also we have sent away/remitted [them] for our debtors;

and do not lead us into testing/temptation,

but save us from evil [or possibly "the evil one"]

Questions

1. Notice the ways in which the word order differs from ordinary English. Can you formulate a rule about the usual position of the Latin words for “our” and “your” (the so-called possessives) with respect to the words they go with? (Do not worry at the moment about the different endings - *noster/nostra/nostrum/nostris* and *tuum/tua*. All will become clear as we go on.)
2. Some of the words in the Lord's Prayer would appear in different forms in a Latin dictionary; e.g. *caelis* would appear as *caelum*, *panem* as *panis* (the reasons will become apparent very soon). Find the following words in a Latin dictionary:
 1. *pater*
 2. *caelum*
 3. *nomen*
 4. *regnum*
 5. *voluntas*
 6. *terra*
 7. *panis*
 8. *debitum*
 9. *tentatio* *or* *temptatio* (both spellings possible)