The Authorised Version at 400
a 400th Anniversary Edition
of the King James Version

JON RIDING

It is not often that 400th Anniversaries occur and when the Anniversary in question honours a text which is foundational to the English language it is particularly significant. Much has already been written about the Authorised, or King James Version (AV, KJV) of the Bible and no doubt many more words will be forthcoming during the remainder of this anniversary year and thereafter. The significance of the AV can hardly be overestimated. More than any other text it has formed English language and culture and helped to shape it as it is today. As 2011 approached there was much discussion at the British & Foreign Bible Society (Bible Society) as to how best to commemorate the occasion.

It was decided that in addition to sponsoring the King James Bible Trust, the Bible Society should prepare an Anniversary Edition; every effort should be made to respect the original text but also to ensure that that text was presented in the most accessible way to enable the widest possible set of readers to engage with it more fully. The brief, then, to the editorial team was straightforward, but fulfilling it required the use of modern techniques of text processing and computational linguistics that could never have been dreamed of by Lancelot Andrewes and his colleagues in the companies of translators in the early 17th century.

As a pre-requisite to deciding upon how best to proceed the editors sought to identify the scope of interest in the new edition. It was clear that there would be considerable interest in the UK but it also became apparent that the target constituency was very much wider than the UK alone. Although colleagues at the American Bible Society were preparing their own US commemorative edition the response to wider enquiries made it clear that there was significant interest from elsewhere. Former dominions were strongly represented, with expressions of interest from Canada, Australasia, sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian sub-continent. Whilst this was an encouragement it also raised other questions in the context of creating an accessible text. Put simply, the KJV text is quite difficult for many mother-tongue English speakers. For those reading English as their second or third language the difficulties are compounded. The editors soon realised that the global nature of the target constituency must be recognised and these wider needs taken into account as the edition took

1 Opfel, The King James Bible Translators, 2002
shape. An immediate question was the name of the new edition. Within the Church of England this text is probably more commonly known as the Authorised Version (AV) but elsewhere the name King James Version (KJV) is more generally current. Given the choice of irritating a significant part of the market whichever was chosen the editors opted for King James Authorised Version (KJAV) as a via media.

The first question that arose was, which text? There are a surprising number of variant versions of the KJV. What is generally regarded as the Authorised Version today has the Oxford edition of 1769 as its basis, taking advantage of the more standard British English spellings it introduced. Having said this there are still plenty of variations of spelling in the Oxford text. Editions since 1769 have also remained true to most of the early editions in retaining the two-column typography which has become archetypical of nearly all Bibles in nearly all languages. This layout is often criticised as ‘old-fashioned’ and an unnecessary complication for some readers but there are sound reasons for it. An English Bible may contain anything from 1,100 to 1,500 pages depending on a number of variables. The most significant variable is the typography used. It is almost inevitable that cost limits the number of pages and the two-column setting is a very efficient way of presenting text, particularly where the point size is so small that a full width of text on the page might present problems for the reader as they scan across the line from left to right. The wider the column in these circumstances the greater the possibility that the reader’s eye may inadvertently slip a line. The two-column layout is thus ideal when a small point size is used for the text as is almost invariably the case with Bibles.

More controversial was the decision to follow the example of the Bible Society 1954 edition of the KJV, issued to celebrate the Society’s 150th Anniversary. In this edition the tradition for KJV bibles of setting each verse of the text as a paragraph was abandoned. Instead paragraphs were used to indicate the overall discourse structure of the text, much as they are in most other writing. Headings at the start of short passages of text were also added, following the 1954 edition. Such headings are now common in more modern translations and are a valuable aid to the reader scanning through in search of a particular passage. The most radical change to traditional typography was the decision to treat extended passages of poetry differently from prose. In books such as Psalms, Proverbs and Job, where the vast majority of the text is poetry, a single column presentation was adopted to enable the poetry to be set out such that the structure of stanzas was clearly visible and within stanzas the individual verses and their cola were easily discernible.

1 Wong, ‘Which King James Bible?’, 2011, p. 7
2 On identifying the structure of Hebrew poetry, see Fokkelman, The Psalms in Form, 2002.
degree it might be possible to reflect at least some of the underlying features inherent in the original Hebrew but in the end the difficulties marking these structures typographically were felt in most cases to create more problems for the reader than benefits. The editors did decide to reflect the presence of acrostics in the original where it was possible to do so with confidence. The final layout decision was to use the same set of line drawings created by Horace Knowles, as used by the 1954 edition. All of these measures contribute to a presentation of the text which is much clearer on the page, allows the reader to locate a passage much more readily and exposes rather more of the underlying discourse structure than is generally the case for KJV Bibles.

The next question the editors addressed was how much additional material to include with the text. Once again the breadth of interest in the edition influenced their decisions. Not only was the scope of interest wide geographically, it was also broad culturally. Whilst there would clearly be many practising Christians who would want a copy there was equally clearly a much wider interest, particularly in the UK, in the KJV as a foundational text for English language and culture. This interest was not confined to Church members and as a consequence the editors felt they could not assume the general degree of familiarity with the text that could be expected from members of a church congregation. The final decision was that the following set of additional materials would be included with the text:

- Brief introductions to each of the books of the Bible.
- A one year Reading Plan
- Biblical and Agricultural Calendars for the Ancient World
- An extensive Glossary of Archaic Terms
- A short Concordance indexing key verses from the Scriptures
- An exhaustive Names Index of people, places and tribes found in the Bible
- An Outline History Chart

Some of this material, such as book introductions, the reading plan, outline history chart and the calendars was available in other modern translations and could be adapted readily for the KJAV. Other items had to be created for this edition. These included the list of common phrases, the glossary and the concordance and index of names. The editorial team at the Bible Society were happy to compile the list of common phrases¹ but when it came to the glossary, concordance and names index it was clear that this was a very significant task with the potential to consume many months or even years of editorial labour. At this point the editors

¹ The list was developed from material originally created for the CrossRef-It website resource for students: http://crossref-it.info/
approached colleagues in the Bible Society’s Linguistic Computing department for help.

The Linguistic Computing (LC) team at the Bible Society is primarily a research group tasked with developing computer systems which are able to help those working in the field translating the Bible into other languages. The systems they develop are capable of working with any natural language and are in use with translation teams all over the world. Amongst the outcomes of their work is a computer system which is able to take a standard ‘model’ concordance to the Bible and reproduce that concordance automatically for a different Bible in another language. Alongside this system is another that can generate automatically a names index for any Bible in any language. These systems shorten the time needed to create a concordance and names index from many months (sometimes years) to just a few weeks. They were the obvious solution to the problem facing the editors and the LC team were asked to create a concordance and names index for the new edition. The LC team reviewed the available model concordances and decided that the one that fitted the task most closely was the short concordance created to the Good News Bible (GNB) in 1987. The first stage in the process was to use the computer to reproduce automatically the GNB concordance for the KJAV text. Most readers will by now be thinking that this is not necessarily going to work very well. GNB is a modern English translation which follows the principle of functional equivalence and in consequence avoids much of the technical and archaic vocabulary found in the KJAV. Happily, the LC systems are able to deal with these complications very successfully. Designed to reproduce concordances in different languages they do not attempt to map a word in one language to a word in another. Instead, the systems first identify the semantic domains represented by the head words of the concordance entries in the model concordance and then find the words or phrases in the new translation which map most closely to those domains. Thus, a single head word in the model concordance may map to more than one word in the new concordance where those words are, at least to some degree, synonyms. Conversely, two or more words in the model may conflate into a single word in the new concordance. Homonyms too are managed automatically by the process which can identify the distinction between bear (animal) and bear (carry) without the need to refer to any kind of dictionary or grammar. The systems are entirely language-independent, require no information to be supplied about the languages to be processed and work for all natural languages. In this particular case the model and target texts were both in English.

Creating the first draft of the new concordance for the KJAV took the LC system just over five minutes. In addition to identifying the equivalent words for each GNB entry in the KJV the system also selected automatically the portion of the verse to be printed in the concordance. This is ordinarily a very time-consuming process but the system is able to select an appropriate part of the verse containing the key word automatically by reference to punctuation and discourse markers in the text itself. Each reference was then carefully checked to confirm that the portion of the verse selected was the most helpful portion for the reader. The editors then spent more time reviewing the new concordance as a whole and extending it to cover key references for the KJAV in particular which were not selected as part of the original GNB model concordance. The Names Index was generated entirely automatically in just a few minutes and then reviewed by the editors who added brief explanations to identify each character, particularly in cases of names where many characters in Scripture share the same name. In all, the editors spent a total of about three months reviewing and proofing the output from the automatic systems. Once they were content, the system then generated final page proofs ready for typesetting. The task as a whole occupied fewer than four months from start to finish. By contrast, the first concordance to the KJV was created in the eighteenth century by Alexander Cruden, the task took him forty years and at the end of the process he was admitted to a lunatic asylum. Perhaps more importantly, these systems are available to translators all over the world, enabling them to create concordances and other helps for their readers in any language and in a fraction of the time needed before.

The Glossary was a rather more difficult task. Biblical glossaries are generally fairly small and are geared to explaining technical theological vocabulary with which the reader may be less familiar. In the case of the KJAV the breadth of the potential readership meant that the typical small glossary was unlikely to fulfil the need. Moreover, inconsistency of spelling, archaic vocabulary and shifting usage made the task of identifying the words which should be included in the glossary much harder. After some discussion the editors agreed that the basis of the glossary should be derived from a comparison of the vocabulary sets of the GNB and KJV Bibles. GNB was selected as a modern English translation which had been created originally for readers with more limited English, typically those for whom English was not their mother-tongue. Words which were present in both vocabulary lists were assumed to be generally current in modern English although their usage might have changed. Words present on the KJV list but not on the GNB list were assumed to be

1 Keay, Alexander the Corrector: The Tormented Genius who Unwrote the Bible, 2005
candidates for glossary entries. First of all the words from both the vocabulary lists were analysed automatically, using morphology analysis systems developed by the LC team, ¹ to identify the root and citation forms of each word. This allowed the editors to review the different forms of each word present in the text. Where a particular form of a word was no longer current but the meaning remained largely unchanged, for example ‘changest’ or ‘spake’, the word was removed from the list. The automatic glossing technology was then used to generate a list of equivalent words in the GNB for each of the remaining words from the KJV vocabulary list. Each item on the list was now carefully reviewed by the editors in three contexts: firstly, what meaning might the original Greek or Hebrew have intended to convey, secondly, what meaning did the KJV translators hope to convey and finally, how best can that meaning be expressed in one or two words of modern English? The editors first reviewed the original Greek or Hebrew underlying each word and then spent many hours reviewing the seventeenth-century usages listed in the Oxford English Dictionary before deciding on the most helpful gloss for each entry. The outcome is a far larger list than that found in most biblical glossaries but the editors hope that those who are less familiar with seventeenth-century ecclesiastical English will, with the help of the glossary, find the text rather more accessible.

The KJAV then, represents a fusion of the heritage left by the original translators and the very latest techniques developed by computational linguists over the last ten or fifteen years. The text remains unchanged but the extra material, created using the very latest techniques for linguistic analysis, ensures that this text, with its roots deep in the heritage of English language and culture, remains as accessible as possible to twenty-first century readers. HRH the Prince of Wales concludes his foreword to the 400th Anniversary Edition by expressing the hope that this ‘exceptional translation . . . will be introduced to a new generation, meeting the profound human need for continuity and permanence and helping to maintain standards of quality that will serve our children well into the future.’

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(After a spell as a Lay Clerk at Chester Cathedral and then an early career as a computer systems software engineer, Jon Riding has, since 1992, led the Linguistic Computing research team at the Bible Society.) www.biblesociety.org.uk
The AT-400 is a jet airliner in Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas. Based on either the Boeing 737-300 or the Airbus A320 commercial jets, the AT-400's large size and sluggish response makes the plane harder to control, similar to the Andromada. Nevertheless, the plane can in fact be used to execute stunts, including barrel rolls and loop-the-loops. A primary disadvantage to this plane is once you land and get out you can't get back in because the door is very high from the ground. The only way you can get