

Lost in Translation

Rokha (The Spirit) is found 497 times in The Peshitta. Pneuma is found 413 times in The Byz. Greek NT; 407 in W&H. The Greek Byz. has 83 % of The Peshitta #.

Holy Spirit occurs 97 times in the Peshitta; 93 in the Greek TR; 92 in The Critical W&H Greek text.

God occurs 1397 times in The Peshitta; 1321 in The Byzantine; 1292 in W&H.
The Greek Byz. has 95% of The Peshitta #.

Jesus occurs 1116 in The Peshitta ;972 times in The Byzantine Greek; 913 W&H.
The Greek Byz. has 87 % of The Peshitta #.

Messiah occurs 590 times in The Peshitta; 571 in The Byz. Greek; 536 in W&H.
The Greek Byz. has 97 % of The Peshitta #.

The total Greek number divided by the total Peshitta # is 3370/3697, or 91%.
The Peshitta number is 9.7% greater than the Greek #.

So, the Greek primacists would have us believe the Peshitta translator(s) added "God" 76 to 105 times to the Greek text to form the Peshitta translation; he/they added 144 to 203 occurrences of "Jesus" to the Greek number, the word "Spirit" 84 to 90 times to the Greek number of this word, and "Messiah" 19 to 54 times to form The Peshitta's Aramaic text.

Totaling the numbers for these four names of the Triune Deity, we find *the Peshitta has at least 323 more of these titles-names than The Byzantine Greek NT and as many as 452 more than the Alexandrian Greek text.* Is it believable that a translator would add 323 to 452 Divine names (10%-13% of the Greek total 3370) to the original in order to make a translation ?

Or is it more believable a translator would omit 323 to 452 Divine names (9%-12% of the Aramaic total 3697) from the original in order to make a translation ?

Now these facts may suggest to someone that The hypothetical Peshitta translator(s) conspired to produce a "more orthodox" version than the supposed original Greek text, through misguided zeal. I cannot imagine such to be the mindset of a devout Christian, as such a believer, especially one from the Eastern Aramaean church, would never consider tampering with the word of God in any way. However, I will indulge the objection for argument's sake. Let's assume that was what happened here.

Now let's look at some other word comparisons.

Comparing Murdock’s English Translation and Young’s Literal Translation:

	<u>Murdock</u>	<u>YLT</u>	<u>Peshitta/Greek %</u>
In	3206	3289	97.48%
By	1072	590	181.69%
To	5887	6575	89.54%
For	2576	1758	146.53%
Into	384	288	133.33%
Unto	118	571	20.67%
From	1215	878	138.38%
With	1459	1216	119.98%
On	806	600	134.33%
Upon	312	415	75.18%
Total preps.	17035	16180	105.28%
"And" is from Aram. (-), ܐܘܪܝܟܐ, & Grk. και;	And	9324	136.35% (From Aramaic & Greek)
"But" is from Aram. ܕܘܪܝܟܐ, (-), ܕܘܪܝܟܐ, & Grk. Αλλα, & δε	But	2856	64.08% (From Aramaic & Greek)
	"And"+"But"	12180	119.40% (From Aramaic & Greek)
	Me	664	86.90%
	My	622	143.25%
	"Me"+"My"	1286	114.15%
	Us	330	124.85%
	Our	328	196.95%
	"Us"+"Our"	658	160.79%
	Him	2001	82.01%
	His	1276	128.06%
	37379	33581	111.31%

The conjunction from Aram. (-), ܐܘܪܝܟܐ, & Grk. και; and "But" is from Aram. ܕܘܪܝܟܐ, (-), ܕܘܪܝܟܐ, & Grk. Αλλα, & δε . These are not calculated from English translations.

Why would the supposed Aramaean add 3500 proclitic waw’s - “and’s” to the Greek number of “kai’s throughout the NT ? Why would he add several hundred prepositions and personal pronouns ? Would that make the Peshitta more orthodox ?

Overall, there are 11% more of these preps., pronouns and conjunctions in the Peshitta NT than in the Byzantine Greek NT. These words have nothing to do with orthodoxy.

Now look at a comparison of the same preps., pronouns and conjunctions in The Hebrew OT and The LXX:

Old Testament Comparisons of Conjunctions, Prepositions & Pronouns in Hebrew & LXX Bibles

	LXXE	Hebrew	Heb/LXX %
"His" Greek αυτου; Heb. ה-	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	6685	6917 103.47%
"Me" Greek με,εμε; Heb. אני,י-י,י	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	2445	1546 63.23%
"My" Greek μου,εμου; Heb. י-	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	3833	4006 104.51%
"Us" Greek ημιν,ημας; Heb. ונ-	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	746	675 90.48%
"Them", "Their" Greek αυτων,-ους,-οις; Heb. אתם-,ם-,םה-	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.(# vrses)	5214	4543 87.13%
"Our" Greek ημων; Heb. ונ-	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	865	795 91.91%
"Of" (not calculated in stats as most are Genitive constructs, not preps.)	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	(not calculated in stats.)	
"In" Greek εν or dative; Heb. ב-	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	10020	11239 112.17%
"By" Greek δια, εν, υπο or dative; Heb. ב-	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	1815	2163 119.17%
"With" Greek παρα,προς, εν, or dative; Heb. ב-, עם	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	4435	4166 93.93%
"In,By,With"-combined Greek εν or dative,etc.;Heb.(ב-),etc.	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	16270	17568 107.98%
"From" Greek απο, εκ, w-gen.; Heb. מן, מ-	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	3308	4059 122.70%
"To" Greek προς,επι,εις; Heb. אל,את,ל-	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	17256	14859 86.11%
"Unto" Greek εις,προς,επι; Heb. אל,את,ל-	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	37	5539 14970.27%
"Into" Greek εις,προς, Heb. אל,ב-,ל-	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	1466	803 54.77%
"To,Unto,Into" combined	LXXE-Young's Lit. Trans.	18759	21201 113.02%
"And" Greek και, ("kai") Heb. ו-	LXX - Hebrew.	45158	51027 112.60%
"But" Greek δε, Heb. ו-	LXX-Young's Lit. Trans.	3153	
"And","But" Combined -Greek και,δε,αλλα Heb. ו-]	LXX - Hebrew.	48305	51027 105.63%
Total Preps. & Conjunctions, Possessive Pronouns-		97160	104778 107.84%

A study of The LXX & Hebrew of the Prophets shows that there are 4.5% more Kai's than matching waw conjunctions and 11% more δε's than matching waw conjunctions. I have adjusted the totals for these conjunctions accordingly. "Kai and "de" may be descriminately added routinely to make for smoother Greek out of a Semitic original.

The same pattern prevails in The Hebrew-Greek LXX comparison that we find in The Peshitta-Greek NT study !

The numbers for conjunctions in The Torah are: Hebrew (BHS) waw consec. = 13785
 LXX kai = 11704; de = 1546; Total = 13250. Hebrew/LXX = 13785/13250, or 104%.
 That is very close to the adjusted conjunction total for the Heb. OT/LXX of 105%.
 The Torah LXX is the most accurate part of the LXX and in closest agreement with The Hebrew.

There are several thousand more conjunctions in the Hebrew OT than in The LXX; the same holds generally true of pronouns and prepositions as well. Did someone add these words to the Hebrew text when translating from The LXX; No, The LXX is the translation, not the Hebrew ! The LXX obviously dropped these 7457 words from the original Hebrew text in the translation process- about 7% of the Hebrew number overall.

Another LXX comparison: **The LXX** has the word for "Spirit" ("Πνευμα -Pneuma") 307 times ; The **Hebrew OT** has the word for "Spirit" ("Ruach") 392 times. The Greek LXX translators dropped the word or used another word for it 85 times. LXX/Hebrew is 307/392 , or **78%**. Compare that to the Greek NT/Peshitta NT of **82%** for the same words above.

As it would be ridiculous to assert that the Hebrew Bible was formed by translating the LXX and adding these thousands of words , at the rate of 7% added to the original, so it would be ridiculous to affirm that The Peshitta NT was formed by translating the Greek NT and adding thousands of words, including thousands of prepositions, pronouns and conjunctions, as well as hundreds of more substantive words, such as “God”, “Messiah”, “Jesus”, and “Spirit”- all at the rate of about 10% of the original number added !

Can the picture be any clearer than this ? The Greek NT is a translation of The Peshitta NT. It is not the original NT; it came from the Peshitta; The Peshitta NT, (*represented here in the Critical Editions compiled in the 1905 Syriac NT*), is the original text written by the apostles and translated into Greek. There is no other text in existence today that can merit the claim to the original New Testament, nor do I believe there ever has been another such text apart from The Peshitta in its current form !