

Ciceronian/Horatian Tradition (Latin tradition)

(Latin is the language of ancient Rome and the ancestor of modern Romance languages.)

Roman tradition comes to an end and medieval translation begins with Boethius in the early 6th century.

There are 2 kinds of translation: faithful and free [neither Cicero, statesman and jurist, nor Horace, poet, used the word “free” or “translation”; only Horace used the word “faithful”].

For both, translation was a matter of slavish adherence to each word in its SL sequence, slavish literalism, which Cicero calls rendering *ut interpretes* (like a translator); and Horace calls rendering like a *fidus interpretes*, “faithful translator”.

These dicta were called exhortations to free translation, i.e. to a looser bound to individual words and their sequencing.

Literal translation, called w-f-w by Cicero (BC. 106-46) and Horace (65-8 BC)

Wfw: the segmentation of the SL text into individual words and TL rendering of those word-segments at one time.

Cicero theorized translation for the education of the orator, translation has come to be thought of as definitively literal.

Cicero and later Horace warned against translating wfw, they specifically warned against rendering like a translator, ut interpretes, (as Cicero puts it).

Ut interpretes: to translate was to render one word at a time

Ut orator: to render SL text more freely into the TL in order to persuade a TL audience effectively.

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Jerome (347-419/20) launched a divergent and more conflicted attack on literalism, coining the term s-f-s for a faithful middle ground between the faithful literalism Cicero and Horace censured. (in his Letter to Pammachius – AD 395)

Jerome set the stage for three-term taxonomy that has reigned in mainstream thinking about translation since the late medieval/early modern period: wfw, sfs, and free.

[Robinson's statement: at the higher level there is a dualism between faithful and free translation, and at the lower level faithful translation is divided into wfw and sfs translation. p.88]

The Middle Ages (5th-15th c.; Latin tradition)

Jerome's way of translating the Bible was influential; literary translation was seen as the way to truth.

[Greek → Syriac → Arabic → Latin]

The Renaissance (14th-16th c.; Latin tradition)

Ren was a time of rethinking, not a time of discovery of the past. R translation theory followed Ciceronian norms.