

In what we have written about the importance of translation, we have stumbled upon a very serious problem. We ~~say~~ ^{said that when} ~~of how~~ a word can be ~~used~~ ^{should} can be translated in different ways and we picked the way that the context required. Then also we ~~say~~ ^{said that} we must be careful in translating a word not to bring in too much evidence from context. These statements seem to contradict one another. Actually they were meant to convey two valid phases of idea although perhaps rather poorly expressed as I have them.

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In order to understand this we must realize that a word has a fairly large area of meaning. A word in almost any language may have a fairly large area of meaning. In another language there may be no word which covers precisely this same area of meaning. If there is that is the correct way to translate it, undoubtedly. Usually however there are a number of ways that a word may be translated, ~~rendering from one to another~~ ^{language}, each of which conveys part of the meaning that is involved in the original word, but not all. Each of these words also inevitably brings in ideas, ~~that are actually covered by the original word~~ ^{some} of which conveys part of the meaning that is involved in the original word but not all. Each of these words also inevitably in ideas that are actually covered in the original word. In translating it is altogether valid to pick the one of various possible translations which best fits with the context. In fact, this is necessary in order to make a good translation. There often is always a temptation, however, to translate the word in a way which seems to fit the context particularly well but which is not warranted by the usage of the word elsewhere. Thus we have to take context into consideration in determining how we should translate a particular word. But context only enables us to choose between various ways of translating the word that we find evidences in other places. If we translate the word in order to fit the context in a way that is not evidenced elsewhere, we are doing violence to the meaning of the word and introducing something which may be entirely wrong.