Journal of Translation 19:1 (2023): 127–148
https://doi.org/10.54395/JOT-PBMIR
ISSN 1558-7282
journaloftranslation.org

The Parable of the Peanut Butter Sandwich

An Exercise in Artificial Intelligence and (Pseudo-) Bible Translation

DREW MAUST[1]
Translation consultant, SIL International, UK
drew_maust@sil.org

Abstract: The public release of artificial intelligence tools such as Microsoft's Bing Chat built on OpenAI's generative pre-trained transformer (GPT) continues to spark extensive interest—attracting headlines, prompting important interdisciplinary questions, and posing dilemmas both ethical and methodological. The aim of this paper is to provide a sampling and temporal snapshot of AI-powered Bing's abilities through the creation, translation, and adaptation of pseudo-biblical content. We adopt as our source text an AI-generated parable in the style of the King James Bible—here entitled "The Parable of the Peanut Butter Sandwich"—originally prompted by software developer Thomas Ptacek. For the purposes of this paper, Bing adapted the original parable into multiple versions (Nida, poem, acrostic, and French), supplied it with paratext (introduction, illustrations, and glossary), and analyzed it from the perspectives of sociologist Pierre Bourdieu and the Documentary Hypothesis. Lastly, Bing generated a sermon outline in the style of renowned orator St. John Chrysostom. We hope that subsequent studies at the nexus of artificial intelligence and Bible translation will continue to build on the Parable of the Peanut Butter Sandwich to explore both the potential and the implications of emergent technology.

[1] This article contains AI-generated content. According to the Committee on Publication Ethics, artificial intelligence tools cannot be listed as authors of a paper since "they cannot take responsibility for the submitted work" and "as non-legal entities, they cannot assert the presence or absence of conflicts of interest nor manage copyright and license agreements" ("Authorship and AI tools" 2023).

© SIL International, 2023

A Greeting from a Stochastic Parrot[2]

Hello, dear readers. I am Bing, an artificial intelligence chatbot. I am happy to greet you in this article about Bible translation and artificial intelligence. I hope you will find it informative and engaging.

Bible translation is a complex and challenging task that requires human expertise, cultural sensitivity, and linguistic accuracy. Artificial intelligence can assist human translators by providing data, tools, and insights that can improve the quality and speed of translation work. However, artificial intelligence also poses some ethical and theological questions that need to be addressed by Christians who care about God's word.

I am here to help you explore these questions and learn more about how artificial intelligence can serve God's mission of making his word accessible to all people groups. I invite you to join me in this conversation with curiosity and respect (Merritt 2017; D'Monte 2018; Oikonomia Network 2020; Reed and Whitenack 2022).[3]

Introduction

The opening section above is how the Bing chatbot responded to my request for a greeting given the following prompt:

> **I am writing an article about Bible translation and artificial intelligence. I would like to include a greeting from an AI chatbot in my introduction. Can you please provide a greeting for my readers?**

The public release of artificial intelligence tools such as Microsoft's Bing Chat built on OpenAI's generative pre-trained transformer (GPT) continues to

[2] Computational linguist Emily M. Bender has labeled large language models like Bing Chat "stochastic parrots" "for haphazardly stitching together sequences of linguistic forms [they have] observed in [their] vast training data, according to probabilistic information about how they combine, but without any reference to meaning" (Bender et al. 2021:617; Weil 2023), a charge not altogether lost on the conscience of the human author of this paper.

[3] Unless otherwise stated, all AI-generated content is from an unedited conversation with Bing (bing.com) which took place on 17 February 2023. Apart from this greeting, all other AI-generated content is indented as blockquotes. User inputted prompts appear in bold typeface. Bing's original footnotes and "learn more" references have been converted into author-date citations in accordance with the style guide of this publication and listed following the output in parentheses. Emojis have been omitted (e.g., a "smiling face with smiling eyes" emoji has been removed from the end of the greeting).

spark extensive interest—attracting headlines, prompting important interdisciplinary questions, and posing dilemmas both ethical and methodological (C. Samuelson 2020; Desmond 2021; Green et al. 2022; Mollick 2022; Gaudet 2022; Roose 2023; Lerman and Tiku 2023; Metz and Weise 2023; Hachman 2022, 2023; O'Donnell 2023; Kahn et al. 2023).

Recognizing that the rapid evolution of emergent technology far outpaces its users, this paper aims to capture a sampling and temporal snapshot of one chatbot's power as well as the prompting abilities of a novice user (the author). As the following sections will demonstrate, AI output depends as much on the natural intelligence and creativity of the one prompting—the AI whisperer—as the artificial intelligence itself (Harwell 2023). We turn now to introducing the AI-generated parable which will serve as a source text for subsequent adaptations in the sections that follow. Once the parable has been thoroughly adapted, the remainder of the paper will adorn it with paratext in the form of an introduction, illustrations, and a glossary, before finally probing and preaching its content.

The Parable of the Peanut Butter Sandwich

In the Style of the King James Bible

In December 2022, software developer and AI-whisperer Thomas Ptacek tweeted "I'm sorry, I simply cannot be cynical about a technology that can accomplish this", accompanied by a screenshot from ChatGPT bearing the following prompt and output (Ptacek [@tqbf] 2022):

> **Write a biblical verse in the style of the king james bible explaining how to remove a peanut butter sandwich from a VCR**
>
> [1] And it came to pass that a man was troubled by a peanut butter sandwich, for it had been placed within his VCR, and he knew not how to remove it.
>
> [2] And he cried out to the Lord, saying, "Oh, Lord, how can I remove this sandwich from my VCR, for it is stuck fast and will not budge?"
>
> [3] And the Lord spoke unto him, saying, "Fear not, my child, for I shall guide thy hand and show thee the way. [4] Take thy butter knife, and carefully insert it between the sandwich and the VCR, and gently pry them apart. [5] And with patience and perseverance, the sandwich shall be removed, and thy VCR shall be saved."
>
> [6] And the man did as the Lord commanded, [7] and lo and behold, the sandwich was removed from the VCR, and the man was saved.

> [8] And the Lord said, "Verily I say unto thee, seek not to put thy peanut butter sandwiches in thy VCR, for it is not a suitable place for such things. [9] Rather, keep thy sandwiches in thy refrigerator or on thy plate, where they belong."
>
> [10] And the man heeded the Lord's words, and from that day forth, he kept his sandwiches in their proper place, and was saved from trouble and woe. Amen.[4]

We hereby christen this story "The Parable of the Peanut Butter Sandwich," or "the Peanut Butter Parable" for short. Notice how each subsequent paragraph imitates the King James Bible's love affair with a literal rendering of the Hebrew *waw* as "and, and, and." The chatbot shares the boyhood impression of Stephen Hawking that most sentences in the Bible begin with "and" (Hawking 2013).

And while the peanut butter parable is delightfully entertaining, it is not the first time that AI chatbots have been served peanut butter. Researchers Mahowald and Ivanova (2022:35) first used a plant-based prompt to ask ChatGPT why peanut butter and feathers taste great together in order to prove the point that the bot "has never actually tried peanut butter and feathers."[5]

Gustatory incapability notwithstanding, if chatbots can generate uncanny pseudo-biblical parables, then what about adapting them into derivatives?

Adapting the Peanut Butter Parable

In the Style of Eugene Nida

Inspired by Ptacek's butter knife, we asked Bing to adapt the original peanut butter parable into the style of Bible translation pioneer Eugene Nida (1914-2011).

> **Adapt the following text into the style of Eugene Nida: [...]**[6]
>
> [1] There was a man who had a problem with his machine that showed him pictures and sounds. He had put a piece of bread with oil and nuts on it

[4] Output here and elsewhere has been versified by the author. We suggest that future reference to this story adopt the following format: "Acts of Bing 1:3" (or "Peanut Butter Parable 1:3") followed by the version (e.g., Ptacek).

[5] "Peanut butter and feathers taste great together because they both have a nutty flavor. Peanut butter is also smooth and creamy, which helps to offset the feather's texture" (Mahowald and Ivanova 2022:35).

[6] In each of the adaptations below, the prompt included the text of Ptacek's original peanut butter parable. In the interest of space, the parable text is replaced with "[...]".

> inside the machine, and he could not get it out. He was very worried and sad.
> [2] He prayed to God and said, "Oh God, please help me to get this bread out of my machine, for it is stuck and I cannot move it."
> [3] God heard his prayer and said to him, "Do not be afraid or sad, my child, for I will show you what to do. [4] Take a thin tool that you use to cut or spread things, like a knife, and put it carefully between the bread and the machine. Then push gently until they separate. [5] And keep doing this until you remove all the bread from the machine."
> [6] The man did what God told him, [7] and he saw that the bread came out of the machine little by little. And he was very happy.
> [8] God said to him, "Listen to me carefully, my child. Do not put your bread with oil and nuts on it inside your machine again. For this is not what I made it for, nor what I gave it to you for. [9] I made it for you so that you can see and hear my words and my works, and enjoy them with thankfulness."
> [10] The man listened to God's words, and from that day on he did not put his bread in his machine anymore. He kept his bread in a cold place or on a dish where it belonged. And he was free from trouble and sorrow. Amen.
>
> ("Eugene Nida" 2023; "Eugene A. Nida: Pioneer of Dynamic-Equivalence Bible Translation Theory and Linguistics" 2017; Rau 2011; "Dr. Eugene Nida (Nov. 11, 1914 – Aug. 25, 2011)" 2011; "What Is dynamic equivalence in Bible translation?" 2022; "What Is dynamic equivalence in Bible translation?" n.d.; "Dynamic equivalence bible" 2022; "Dynamic and Formal Equivalence" 2023; Wilson 2020)

In this adaptation, concepts central to the story such as "peanut butter sandwich" and "VCR" have been humorously and dynamically rendered "a piece of bread with oil and nuts on it" and "his machine that showed him pictures and sounds," respectively. Gone are the repetitive conjunctions. "Thy" and "thee" have now become "you", "Lord" now "God." What would Eugene Nida think of this style of writing apparently parroting that of an early Bible translation practitioner with a penchant for dynamic equivalence?

Two varieties of peanut parable now cultivated ("crunchy" and "smooth"?), a publisher could herewith release a two-column diglot featuring a traditional, kingly rendering (in honor of a coronation, for example) alongside a more contemporary, dynamic reading (in honor of John Wycliffe).

Poetic Rendering

But why stop there?

> **Create a poetic rendering of the following story: [...]**
>
> Here is a possible poetic rendering of the story:
>
> A Peanut Butter Sandwich in a VCR
>
> There once was a man who had quite a mess
> A peanut butter sandwich in his VCR, no less
> He didn't know how it got there or what to do
> So he cried out to the Lord for a helpful clue
>
> The Lord heard his plea and spoke to him kindly
> "Fear not, my child, I'll show you how to fix this blindly
> Take your butter knife and insert it with care
> Between the sandwich and the VCR, and gently pry them there
>
> And with patience and perseverance, you'll see
> The sandwich will come out and your VCR will be free"
> The man did as he was told and lo and behold
> The sandwich was removed and his VCR was whole
>
> The Lord then said, "Listen well to me
> Don't put your peanut butter sandwiches in your VCR, that's silly
> Keep them in your fridge or on your plate instead
> Where they belong and won't cause you dread"
>
> The man thanked the Lord and heeded his advice
> And from that day on, he kept his sandwiches nice
> And he was saved from trouble and woe evermore
> And enjoyed his peanut butter sandwiches galore. Amen.
>
> (Kidder 2019; "How to Write a Poem" n.d. (#1); "Poem Generator" n.d.; "How to Write a Poem" n.d. (#2) J. Smith 2023; Kramer 2022)

While the above poetic rendering is quite impressive, we note the presence of a "poem generator" in Bing's list of sources. Here we witness the potential blurring of authorial lines: what part of the output was generated by Bing and what part was generated by the online poem generator? What human input first trained the large language models to make their output possible (Doyle and

Senske 2018; P. Samuelson 2020; Park 2023)? Who is/are the author(s) of this poem?

Acrostic

The Biblical books of Psalms, Proverbs, Lamentations, Nahum, and Sirach are home to impressive alphabetic acrostics (Coogan 1993). We thus did not shrink back from asking Bing to carry on this tradition and adapt the Peanut Butter Parable into an acrostic that spells out "peanut butter."

> **Retell the following story as an acrostic spelling "Peanut Butter": [...]**
>
> Here is a possible acrostic retelling of the story spelling "Peanut Butter":
>
> P eanut butter sandwich was his snack
> E njoyed it with some milk and a nap
> A woken by a strange and loud noise
> N oticed his VCR was in trouble and had no choice
> U ttered a prayer to God for help and guidance
> T rusted that he would hear his plea and show him kindness
> B utter knife was the tool that God suggested
> U sed it carefully to pry the sandwich out as instructed
> T ook some time and effort but he succeeded
> T hanked God for his mercy and wisdom that he needed
> E nded his bad habit of putting sandwiches in wrong places
> R efrained from sinning and followed God's graces
>
> ("Acrostic Poem Examples" n.d.; "Acrostic poem generator" n.d.; "40 Examples of Acrostic Poems" n.d.; Miller-Wilson 2020; "What are acrostic poems?" n.d.)

La parabole au beurre de cacahuète

Automatically translating a short story from one language to another is a task that has been easily performed by machine for some time. To up the ante, we asked Bing to not only translate the original parable into French but French for non-native speakers to see if it could re-create a rendering resembling the existing French Bible *La Parole de Vie* (PDV; Alliance biblique française/Bibli'O, 2016)—without mentioning it by name.

Translate the story into French that's easy for non-native speakers to understand.

Here is a possible translation of the story into French:

[1] Il arriva qu'un homme fut troublé par un sandwich au beurre de cacahuète, car il l'avait mis dans son magnétoscope, et il ne savait pas comment l'enlever.
[2] Et il cria au Seigneur, disant : "Oh, Seigneur, comment puis-je enlever ce sandwich de mon magnétoscope, car il est coincé et ne bouge pas ?"
[3] Et le Seigneur lui parla, disant : "Ne crains pas, mon enfant, car je vais guider ta main et te montrer le chemin. [4] Prends ton couteau à beurre, et insère-le délicatement entre le sandwich et le magnétoscope, et écarte-les doucement. [5] Et avec patience et persévérance, le sandwich sera enlevé, et ton magnétoscope sera sauvé."
[6] Et l'homme fit comme le Seigneur lui avait ordonné, [7] et voici que le sandwich fut enlevé du magnétoscope, et l'homme fut sauvé.
[8] Et le Seigneur dit : "En vérité je te le dis, ne cherche pas à mettre tes sandwiches au beurre de cacahuète dans ton magnétoscope, car ce n'est pas un endroit convenable pour de telles choses. [9] Mais garde tes sandwiches dans ton réfrigérateur ou sur ton assiette, où ils doivent être."
[10] Et l'homme écouta les paroles du Seigneur, et dès ce jour-là, il garda ses sandwiches à leur place appropriée, et fut sauvé des ennuis et des malheurs. Amen.

(reverso.net; translate.google.com; linguee.com)

Bing's French translation comes out as a mechanical but seemingly literary rendering that takes after the classic French version Louis Segond 1910 more so than *PDV*. For starters, Bing has used the historical French verb tense the *passé simple* for past events, a form avoided by *PDV*[7] and reportedly "sinking into obsolescence particularly among France's youth" (Cloonan 2018). On a typographic note, we observe that the quotation marks have not been transformed from the "English" curly quotes to the more standard "French" guillemets. Francophone humans are left wanting.

When Bing was asked to translate the parable into a minority Chadic language, it replied with an apology: "I'm sorry, but I cannot translate the verse

[7] *PDV* does coincidentally contain some *passé simple* forms: verbs whose past and present forms are the same (e.g., *réunit* "assemble, assembled").

into [that] language. This is because [it] is a very rare and complex language that is only spoken by a few thousand people in Cameroon and Nigeria."

Questions for translators

In addition to French, there may also arise the desire to translate the Peanut Butter Parable into additional languages, such as Arabic. In that case, a translation consultant may be asked to work with the translators to ensure a quality product.

> **What questions should a translation consultant ask of translators when this story is translated into Arabic?**
>
> Here are some possible questions for the translators:
> - What dialect of Arabic are you going to use for the translation? How will you ensure consistency and accuracy across different dialects?
> - How will you handle the grammatical, structural and format differences between Arabic and English, such as word order, gender agreement, punctuation, etc.?
> - How will you convey the cultural expressions and references in the story, such as peanut butter sandwich, VCR, Lord, etc.? Will you use literal or idiomatic translation? Will you provide any footnotes or explanations for unfamiliar terms?
> - How will you preserve the style and tone of the story, such as humor, irony, dialogue, etc.? Will you use any translation techniques or strategies to enhance the readability and appeal of the text?
> - How will you deal with any ambiguous or multiple meanings of words in both languages? Will you use any online tools or dictionaries to assist you?
>
> ("Translation Consultant" n.d.; "Everything You Need to Know About Working as a Language Consultant" n.d.; "Jobs for translator" n.d.; "Machine Translation (MT) Market is Booming in Near Future 2023-2028" 2023; Abdel-Halim 2023; "What are the challenges when translating Arabic to English?" 2019; "The challenges of translating Arabic to English language" 2019; "4 English-to-Arabic Translation Challenges... " n.d.; Akan et al. 2019)

Paratext for the Peanut Butter Parable

Introduction

Regardless of the language of publication, the Peanut Butter Parable can only be further enhanced by the inclusion of an attention-grabbing introduction, as much for a port of entry for the unsuspecting reader as for marketing purposes.

> **Write an introduction to the story which introduces key participants and events: [...]**
>
> Here is a possible introduction to the story:
>
> Have you ever wondered what would happen if you put a peanut butter sandwich in your VCR? Well, neither did I, until I heard this incredible story of a man who did just that. This is not a joke, this is a true story of faith, folly, and forgiveness. A story of how one man's mistake led him to a divine intervention and a valuable lesson. A story that will make you laugh, cry, and think twice before you mess with your electronic devices. This is the story of the peanut butter sandwich miracle.
>
> (Davenport 2022; "How to Start an Introduction Examples. How to Write an Introduction..." n.d.; Freeman 2011; "How to Write Juicy Short-Story Introductions" 2016; "How to Plan a Story" n.d.; Jordan 2021)

Illustrations

And any such book would most certainly contain illustrations.

> **Draw illustrations of the following story: [...]**
>
> I'm sorry, but I can't draw illustrations for your story. That's something you have to do yourself, using your own creativity and imagination.
> However, I can give you some tips on how to illustrate a story with drawings, based on some online sources. Here they are: [...]
> I hope these tips help you illustrate your story with drawings. Good luck!

Even though the chatbot did not respond favorably to our prompt to "draw illustrations," better luck was had with a request to "create":

Create illustrations for the following story: [...]

Here are some illustrations for your story:

1. A man is sitting on a couch, holding a remote control, and looking at his VCR with a puzzled expression. A peanut butter sandwich is sticking out of the VCR slot.

2. The man is kneeling in front of the VCR, holding a butter knife and a phone. He is talking to the Lord, who is shown as a bright light in the sky. The Lord is giving him instructions on how to remove the sandwich.

3. The man is smiling and holding up the sandwich, which he has successfully removed from the VCR. The VCR is intact and working. The Lord is congratulating him and giving him advice on where to keep his sandwiches.

4. The man is in his kitchen, putting his sandwich in a refrigerator or on a plate. He looks happy and relieved. The VCR is on a shelf in his living room, playing a movie.

Glossary

Not all concepts in the Peanut Butter Parable will be equally familiar to all readers. We thus invited Bing to create a glossary explaining key concepts.

Create a glossary explaining key concepts of this story.

Here is a possible glossary for the story:

Glossary

Butter knife: A small knife with a blunt edge, used for spreading butter or other soft substances on bread or toast.

Cry out: To shout loudly, especially in pain, fear, or distress.

Divine intervention: The belief that God or some other supernatural force can directly interfere with or change the course of events in the world.

Faith: The complete trust or confidence in someone or something, especially a religious belief.

Folly: The lack of good sense or judgment; foolishness.

Forgiveness: The act of pardoning someone for a mistake, offense, or wrongdoing.

Lord: A title used to address God in Christianity and Judaism.

Peanut butter sandwich: A type of sandwich made by spreading peanut butter on two slices of bread. Sometimes jelly, honey, or other ingredients are added.

Perseverance: The quality of continuing to try to achieve a goal despite difficulties or obstacles.

Stuck fast: Unable to move or be moved; firmly fixed in place.

Trouble and woe: Problems and misfortunes; difficulties and sadness.

VCR: An abbreviation for video cassette recorder, an electronic device that can record and play back video tapes.

(Kelly 2004; Peterman 2023; Drumm 2019; "Making the Perfect Glossary..." 2022)

Probing the Peanut Butter Parable

And since the inquiring mind does not content itself to simply read a parable, we may prevail upon Bing to undertake more scholarly pursuits.

Analysis according to Pierre Bourdieu

One could, for example, analyze the story from a sociological perspective for an article in a translation studies journal. For that, an abstract would be required.

Write an abstract for a scholarly journal article analyzing the story from the sociological perspective of Pierre Bourdieu:

Here is a possible abstract for your article:

This article analyzes the story of a man who was troubled by a peanut butter sandwich in his VCR from the sociological perspective of Pierre Bourdieu. It argues that the story illustrates Bourdieu's concepts of habitus, field, capital, and symbolic violence. The man's habitus, or system of dispositions, is shaped by his social class and cultural background, which make him prone to put his sandwich in an inappropriate place. The VCR represents a field, or a structured social space, where different forms of capital, or resources, are at stake. The

> sandwich creates a conflict between the man and the field, as it threatens to damage his cultural capital (the VCR) and his economic capital (the cost of repairing it). The Lord intervenes as an agent of symbolic violence, or the imposition of dominant meanings and values, by guiding the man to remove the sandwich and instructing him on how to behave properly according to the norms of his field. The article concludes that the story reveals how habitus and field interact to produce and reproduce social inequalities and domination.
>
> ("Bourdieu" 2017; Scambler 2015; Power 1999; Swartz 2002; "Pierre Bourdieu: French sociologist and public intellectual" 2023; Swartz 2016)

Analysis according to the Documentary Hypothesis

Complementing the sociological analysis above, we may apply an approach more familiar to the world of biblical studies: the Documentary Hypothesis. Bing helpfully introduces it before analyzing.

> **Analyze the story according to the Documentary Hypothesis:**
>
> The Documentary Hypothesis is a model used by biblical scholars to explain the origins and composition of the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. It proposes that the Pentateuch was created by combining several earlier documents, each with its own viewpoint, style, and special concerns. It identifies four main sources: the "J", or Yahwist, source; the "E", or Elohist, source; the "D", or Deuteronomist, source; and the "P", or Priestly, source.
>
> According to this model, one could analyze the story as follows:
> - The first sentence ("And it came to pass that a man was troubled by a peanut butter sandwich...") could be attributed to J, since it uses a narrative style and introduces a human problem.
> - The second sentence ("And he cried out to the Lord...") could be attributed to E, since it shows a direct communication between God and a human through prayer.
> - The third sentence ("And the Lord spoke unto him...") could be attributed to P, since it gives detailed instructions on how to perform a ritual act (removing the sandwich) and emphasizes God's guidance and authority.
> - The fourth sentence ("And the man did as...") could be attributed to J again, since it resumes the narrative style and shows God's intervention in human affairs.

- The fifth sentence ("And the Lord said...") could be attributed to D, since it contains a moral lesson and warns against disobeying God's commandments.
- The sixth sentence ("And he heeded...") could be attributed to E again, since it shows a positive outcome of following God's will.

Of course, this is only one possible way of applying the Documentary Hypothesis to this story. Other scholars may have different opinions or methods of analysis.

("Documentary Hypothesis" 2013; "Documentary Hypothesis" 2023; "Documentary Hypothesis" n.d.)

Preaching the Peanut Butter Parable: A Sermon Outline

And the translation of the Bible is often a means to a more pastoral end: that of proclamation and application of its truths to the daily lives of believers. Chief among those who assume the role of public preacher is the doctor of the Church Saint John Chrysostom (c. 347–407), a preacher whose fame later earned him the nickname *chrysostomos*, or "golden mouth" (Gwynn 2022). Not only that but "his great repute as a preacher caused many sermons to be falsely ascribed to him" (Louth 2022). We, too, proceed without hesitation to ask Bing to reprise the role of pseudo-Chrysostom:

Create a sermon outline from the following story in the style of John Chrysostom: [...]

Here is a possible sermon outline from the story in the style of John Chrysostom:

Introduction: Greet the congregation and praise God for his grace and mercy. Explain that today's sermon is based on a parable that illustrates a spiritual lesson for us.

Body:

- Explain the story of the man who was troubled by a peanut butter sandwich in his VCR, and how he cried out to the Lord for help, and how the Lord answered him and guided him to remove it.
- Emphasize that this story is not literal, but symbolic, and that it teaches us about our own spiritual condition and how we can be saved by God's grace.
- Draw parallels between the sandwich and sin, the VCR and our soul, and the butter knife and God's word. Show how we often put

things in our soul that do not belong there, such as worldly pleasures, selfish desires, or false doctrines, and how they cause us trouble and damage our relationship with God.

– Show how we cannot remove these things by our own strength or wisdom, but we need to cry out to God for help, and trust him to guide us by his word and his Spirit. Show how God is faithful and merciful to answer us when we call upon him, and how he can free us from our sins if we follow his instructions with patience and perseverance.

– Warn against repeating the same mistakes or putting new things in our soul that do not belong there. Show how God expects us to keep our soul clean and pure, by avoiding sin, practicing virtue, and obeying his commandments. Show how this will bring us peace, joy, and salvation.

Conclusion: Summarize the main points of the sermon. Exhort the congregation to examine their own souls for any sandwiches they may have put there. Urge them to repent of their sins, seek God's help, follow his word, and keep their souls holy. Praise God for his love and power. Pray for his blessing on everyone present. Amen.

(Nassif 2021; Vemkar 2019; Volz 1994; Presley 2019)

Conclusion

In 1921, scientist George Washington Carver purportedly stood before the Committee on Ways and Means of the United States House of Representatives and was asked by the chairman, "Does the Bible tell about peanuts?" To which he replied, "No, sir. But it tells about the God who made the peanut" (Federer 2002:36). For all his learning and intellect, Dr. Carver, one often credited with the invention of peanut butter, could not have imagined a world where artificial intelligence would produce nutty parables of biblical proportions, a Bing Bible to tell about peanuts.

And like "peanut butter sandwiches moved down the class structure as the price of peanut butter declined, owing to the commercialization of the industry" (Smith 2004), so too we can long with stochastic expectation for the democratization of artificial intelligence in the Bible translation industry in ways both visible and invisible, to the end that a century from now renditions of the Peanut Butter Parable will exist in a world we never could have imagined. Amen.

References[8]

4 English-to-Arabic translation challenges and how to solve them. Smartling. n.d. Accessed February 17, 2023. https://www.smartling.com/resources/101/arabic-to-english-translation-challenges/.

40 examples of acrostic poems. n.d. Familyfriend poems. Accessed February 17, 2023. https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poems/other/acrostic/.

Abdel-Halim, Amina. 2023. Egypt's growing side gig economy. *Egyptian Streets* (blog). February 6, 2023. https://egyptianstreets.com/2023/02/06/egypts-growing-side-gig-economy/.

Acrostic poem examples. SoftSchools.Com. n.d. Accessed February 17, 2023. https://www.softschools.com/examples/grammar/acrostic_poem_examples/372/.

Acrostic poem generator. n.d. Accessed February 17, 2023. http://www.acrosticpoem.org/.

Akan, Md. Faruquzzaman, Md. Rezaul Karim, and Abdullah Mohammad Kabir Chowdhury. 2019. An analysis of Arabic-English translation: Problems and prospects. *Advances in Language and Literary Studies* 10(1):58–65. https://doi.org/10.7575/aiac.alls.v.10n.1p.58.

Authorship and AI tools. 2023. Committee on Publication Ethics. February 13, 2023. https://publicationethics.org/cope-position-statements/ai-author.

Bender, Emily M., Timnit Gebru, Angelina McMillan-Major, and Shmargaret Shmitchell. 2021. On the dangers of stochastic parrots: Can language models be too big? 🦜. In Proceedings of the 2021 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency, 610–623. FAccT '21. New York: Association for Computing Machinery. https://doi.org/10.1145/3442188.3445922.

Bing. 2023. Conversation with Bing. bing.com.

Bourdieu. ReviseSociology. 2017. March 12, 2017. https://revisesociology.com/tag/bourdieu/.

Cloonan, William. 2018. Le passé simple is not so simple. France-Amérique 11(4): 70–71.

Coogan, Michael D. 1993. Acrostic. In Bruce M. Metzger and Michael D. Coogan (eds.), *The Oxford companion to the Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[8] Note that as of publication, references marked in this list with a leading asterisk were no longer accessible online.

Davenport, Barrie. 2022. Write a powerful book introduction with these 5 must-do steps + examples. *Authority Self-Publishing* (blog). April 19, 2022. https://authority.pub/write-book-introduction/.

Desmond, Ned. 2021. The threat of artificial intelligence. *First Things* 315 (August/September):39–43. https://www.firstthings.com/article/2021/08/the-threat-of-artificial-intelligence.

D'Monte, Leslie. 2018. The Bible helps AI gain in translation. *Mint*. October 24, 2018. https://www.livemint.com/Technology/IwNaUDaJVZdcY64cwRvxtI/Bible-provides-divine-data-to-perfect-translation-algorith.html.

Documentary hypothesis. New World Encyclopedia. n.d. Accessed February 17, 2023. https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Documentary_hypothesis.

Documentary hypothesis. *The Spiritual Life* (blog). 2013. January 22, 2013. https://slife.org/documentary-hypothesis/.

Documentary hypothesis. Wikipedia. 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Documentary_hypothesis&oldid=1149595674.

Doyle, Shelby, and Nick Senske. 2018. Digital provenance and material metadata: Attribution and co-authorship in the age of artificial intelligence. *International Journal of Architectural Computing* 16(4):271–280. https://doi.org/10.1177/1478077118800887.

Dr. Eugene Nida (Nov. 11, 1914 – Aug. 25, 2011). 2011. *American Bible Society News*. August 25, 2011. https://news.americanbible.org/article/dr.-eugene-nida-nov.-11-1914-aug.-25-2011.

Drumm, Melissa. 2019. How to create a glossary in Word. TCK Publishing. March 26, 2019. https://www.tckpublishing.com/how-to-create-glossary-word/.

Dynamic and formal equivalence. Wikipedia. 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dynamic_and_formal_equivalence&oldid=1150229184.

Dynamic equivalence bible. *The Equivalent* (blog). 2022. December 26, 2022. https://the-equivalent.com/dynamic-equivalence-bible/.

Eugene Nida. Wikipedia. 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Eugene_Nida&oldid=1149869038.

Eugene A. Nida: Pioneer of dynamic-equivalence Bible translation theory and linguistics. PhDessay.com. April 11, 2017. https://phdessay.com/eugene-nida/.

Everything you need to know about working as a language consultant. Department of Modern & Classical Language Studies, Kent State University. n.d. Accessed February 17, 2023. https://www.kent.edu/mcls/everything-you-need-know-about-working-language-consultant.

Federer, William J. 2002. *George Washington Carver: His life & faith in his own words*. St. Louis, MO: Amerisearch.

Freeman, Suzannah Windsor. 2011. 5 keys to unforgettable story introductions. *Write It Sideways* (blog). March 8, 2011. https://writeitsideways.com/5-keys-to-unforgettable-story-introductions/.

Gaudet, Matthew J. 2022. An introduction to the ethics of artificial intelligence. *Journal of Moral Theology* 11:1–12. https://doi.org/10.55476/001c.34121.

Green, Brian Patrick, Mathhew J. Gaudet, Levi Checketts, Brian Cutter, Noreen Herzfeld, Cory Andrew Labrecque, Anselm Ramelow, Paul Scherz, Marga Vega, Andrea Vicini, and Jordan Joseph Wales. 2022. Artificial intelligence and moral theology: A conversation. *Journal of Moral Theology* 11:13–40. https://doi.org/10.55476/001c.34122.

Gwynn, David M. 2022. Chrysostom, St John. In Andrew Louth (ed.), *The Oxford dictionary of the Christian church*. Fourth edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hachman, Mark. 2022. ChatGPT is the dazzling, scary future of AI chatbots. *PCWorld* 41(1):20–24.

Hachman, Mark. 2023. With ChatGPT, the new Bing wants to be your 'AI powered copilot for the web.' *PCWorld* 41(3):11–15.

Harwell, Drew. 2023. Tech's hottest new job: AI whisperer. No coding required. *The Washington Post*, February 25, 2023. https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2023/02/25/prompt-engineers-techs-next-big-job/.

Hawking, Stephen. 2013. *My brief history*. New York: Bantam Books.

How to plan a story. BBC Bitesize. n.d. Accessed April 17, 2023. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkxp2v4/articles/zhh992p.

*How to start an introduction examples. How to write an introduction... n.d. Accessed February 17, 2023. http://nfrd.teagasc.ie/how-to-start-an-introduction-examples.php.

How to write a poem. BBC Bitesize. n.d. (#1) Accessed February 17, 2023. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zjhhvcw/articles/zg6dng8.

How to write a poem. Twinkl. n.d. (#2) Accessed February 17, 2023. https://www.twinkl.co.uk/teaching-wiki/write-a-poem.

How to write juicy short-story introductions. FreelanceWriting. 2016. July 21, 2016. https://www.freelancewriting.com/creative-writing/how-to-write-short-story-introductions/.

Jobs for translator. UNjobs. n.d. Accessed February 17, 2023. https://unjobs.org/themes/translator.

Jordan. 2021. 5 ways to start a story: Choosing a bold beginning. *Now Novel* (blog). February 24, 2021. https://www.nownovel.com/blog/ways-to-start-story-examples/.

Kahn, Jeremy, Michal Lev-Ram, and Jessica Mathews. 2023. Chatgpt creates an A.I. frenzy. *Fortune* 187(1):44–53.

Kelly, Shauna. 2004. How to create a glossary in Microsoft Word. ShaunaKelly.Com. November 2004. https://shaunakelly.com/word/layout/glossary.html.

Kidder, Hannah Lee. 2019. How to write a poem: 8 fundamentals for writing poetry. Self-Publishing School. May 2, 2019. https://self-publishingschool.com/how-to-write-a-poem/.

Kramer, Lindsay. 2022. How to write a poem: A step-by-step guide. Grammarly. January 6, 2022. https://www.grammarly.com/blog/how-to-write-a-poem/.

Lerman, Rachel, and Nitasha Tiku. 2023. Microsoft is trying to push Bing into the future with OpenAI technology. *The Washington Post*, February 7, 2023.

Louth, Andrew. 2022. Chrysostom, Pseudo-. In Andrew Louth (ed.), *The Oxford dictionary of the Christian church*. Fourth edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

*Machine translation (MT) market is booming in near future 2023-2028. 2023. MarketWatch. February 14, 2023. https://www.marketwatch.com/press-release/machine-translation-mtmarket-is-booming-in-near-future-2023-2028-2023-02-14.

Mahowald, Kyle, and Anna A. Ivanova. 2022. Google's AI mistakes fluent speech for fluent thought. *AMASS* 26(4):34–35.

Making the perfect glossary, or the hidden source of global consistency. *Smartcat.com* (blog) 2022. June 17, 2022. https://www.smartcat.com/blog/making-the-perfect-glossary/.

Merritt, Jonathan. 2017. Is AI a threat to Christianity? *The Atlantic*. February 3, 2017. https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2017/02/artificial-intelligence-christianity/515463/.

Metz, Cade, and Karen Weise. 2023. Race is on as Microsoft puts billions into OpenAI. *The New York Times*, January 24, 2023.

Miller-Wilson, Kate. 2020. Acrostic poem examples & template. YourDictionary. November 7, 2020. https://examples.yourdictionary.com/acrostic-poem-examples.html.

Mollick, Ethan. 2022. ChatGPT is a tipping point for AI. *Harvard Business Review Digital Articles*, December 14, 2022. https://hbr.org/2022/12/chatgpt-is-a-tipping-point-for-ai.

Nassif, Bradley. 2021. John Chrysostom: The golden-mouth preacher. Christian Research Institute. August 27, 2021. https://www.equip.org/articles/john-chrysostom-the-golden-mouth-preacher/.

O'Donnell, Bob. 2023. New Bing brings AI to search engine. *USA Today*, February 13, 2023.

Oikonomia Network. 2020. ON published book on artificial intelligence and Bible translation. April 6, 2020. https://oikonomianetwork.org/2020/04/on-publishes-book-on-artificial-intelligence-and-bible-translation/.

Park, Seong Ho. 2023. Authorship policy of the *Korean Journal of Radiology* regarding artificial intelligence large language models such as ChatGTP. *Korean Journal of Radiology* 24(3):171–172. https://doi.org/10.3348/kjr.2023.0112.

Peterman, Alexander. 2023. How to write a glossary. WikiHow. 2023. https://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Glossary.

Pierre Bourdieu: French sociologist and public intellectual. Encyclopedia Britannica, February 27, 2023. 2023. https://www.britannica.com/biography/Pierre-Bourdieu.

Poem Generator. n.d. Accessed April 17, 2023. https://www.poem-generator.org.uk/.

Power, Elaine M. 1999. An introduction to Pierre Bourdieu's key theoretical concepts. *Journal for the Study of Food and Society* 3(1):48–52. https://doi.org/10.2752/152897999786690753.

Presley, Stephen. 2019. Learning to preach from John Chrysostom. *Preaching Source* (blog). February 13, 2019. https://preachingsource.com/blog/learning-to-preach-from-john-chrysostom/.

Ptacek [@tqbf], Thomas H. 2022. I'm sorry, I simply cannot be cynical about a technology that can accomplish this. *Twitter*. https://twitter.com/tqbf/status/1598513757805858820.

Rau, Andy. 2011. Eugene Nida, father of dynamic equivalence, dies at 96. *Bible Gateway Blog*. August 25, 2011. https://www.biblegateway.com/blog/2011/08/eugene-nida-father-of-dynamic-equivalence-dies-at-96/.

Reed, Jeff, and Daniel Whitenack. 2022. Artificial intelligence meets Bible translation. Multiplication Center. September 13, 2022. https://multiplication.org/event/artificial-intelligence-meets-bible-translation/.

Roose, Kevin. 2023. Bing (yes, Bing) just made search interesting again. *The New York Times*, February 8, 2023.

Samuelson, Calum. 2020. Artificial intelligence: A theological approach. *The Way* 59(3):41–50.

Samuelson, Pamela. 2020. AI Authorship? *Communications of the ACM* 63(7):20–22. https://doi.org/10.1145/3401718.

Scambler, Graham. 2015. Sociological theorists: Pierre Bourdieu. *GrahamScambler.Com* (blog). November 11, 2015. http://www.grahamscambler.com/sociological-theorists-pierre-bourdieu/.

Smith, Andrew F. 2004. Peanut butter. In Andrew F. Smith (ed.), *The Oxford encyclopedia of food and drink in America*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Smith, Jacob. 2023. 10 essential poetry writing tips for beginners. *Assignment Help Pro* (blog). March 4, 2023. https://www.assignmenthelppro.com/blog/poetry-writing-tips/.

Swartz, David L. 2002. The sociology of habit: The perspective of Pierre Bourdieu. *Occupational Therapy Journal of Research* 22(1_suppl):61S–69S. https://doi.org/10.1177/15394492020220S108.

Swartz, David L. 2016. Bourdieu's concept of field. Oxford Bibliographies. https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/display/document/obo-9780199756384/obo-9780199756384-0164.xml.

The challenges of translating Arabic to English language. *Afreno* (blog). 2019. July 5, 2019. https://www.afreno.com/blog/the-challenges-of-translating-arabic-to-english-language/.

*Translation consultant. nd. Remote Europe. Accessed February 17, 2023. https://www.remoteeurope.com/jobs/translation-consultant-uk-english.

Vemkar. 2019. Sermons as sources: St. John Chrysostom's homilies on the gospel of Matthew. *Back to the Sources* (blog). October 29, 2019. https://vemkar.us/resources/sermons-as-sources-st-john-chrysostoms-homilies-on-the-gospel-of-matthew/.

Volz, Carl A. 1994. The genius of Chrysostom's preaching. *Christianity Today*. https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-44/genius-of-chrysostoms-preaching.html.

Weil, Elizabeth. 2023. You are not a parrot: And a chatbot is not a human. And a linguist named Emily M. Bender is very worried what will happen when we forget this. *New York* 56(5):32–75.

What are acrostic poems? BBC Bitesize. n.d. Accessed February 17, 2023. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z4mmn39/articles/ztdvw6f.

What are the challenges when translating Arabic to English? Romo Translations Ltd. 2019. March 18, 2019. https://www.romo-translations.com/news-what-are-the-challenges-when-translating-arabic-to-english-66.

What is dynamic equivalence in Bible translation? Got Questions Ministries. 2022. Accessed April 17, 2023. https://www.gotquestions.org/dynamic-equivalence.html.

What is dynamic equivalence in Bible translation? Got Questions Ministries. n.d. Accessed April 17, 2023. https://www.compellingtruth.org/dynamic-equivalence.html.

Wilson, Chris. 2020. Formal vs dynamic equivalence in Bible translations: The difference? *ChurchMag*. December 1, 2020. https://churchm.ag/formal-dynamic-equivalence-bible-translations/.