

Examples from Esther/Yosef Stories with different English Translations

Notice similarities in the original texts vocabulary and style

Are these similarities kept in translations?

אסתר פרק ב	בראשית פרק מא
<p>(ג) וַיִּפְקֹד הַמֶּלֶךְ פְּקִידִים בְּכָל מְדִינֹת מְלְכוּתוֹ וַיִּקְבְּצוּ אֶת כָּל נְעָרָה בְּתוּלָה טוֹבַת מְרָאָה אֶל שׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה, אֶל בַּיִת הַנָּשִׁים ...</p> <p>[KJ] And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women...</p> <p>[NRSV] And let the king appoint commissioners in all the provinces of his kingdom to gather all the beautiful young virgins to the harem in the citadel of Susa ...</p> <p>[NJPS] Let Your Majesty appoint officers in every province of your realm to assemble all the beautiful young virgins at the fortress of Shushan, in the Harem...</p>	<p>(לד) וַעֲשֵׂה פְרַעְה וַיִּפְקֹד פְּקִידִים עַל הָאָרֶץ ... (לה) וַיִּקְבְּצוּ אֶת כָּל אֲכָל הַשָּׁנִים הַטּוֹבֹת הַבָּאֹת הָאֵלֶּה ...</p> <p>[KJ] Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land... And let them gather all the food of those good years that come</p> <p>[NRSV] Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land... Let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming...</p> <p>[NJPS] And let Pharaoh take steps appoint overseers over the land... Let all the food if tgesse good years that are coming be gathered...</p>
<p>(ד) וַהֲנַעֲרָה אֲשֶׁר תִּיטֵב בְּעֵינֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ תִּמְלֹךְ תַּחַת וַשְׁתִּי וַיִּיטֵב הַדָּבָר בְּעֵינֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיַּעַשׂ כֵּן</p> <p>[KJ] And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.</p> <p>[NRSV] And let the girl who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti."</p>	<p>(לז) וַיִּיטֵב הַדָּבָר בְּעֵינֵי פְרַעְה וּבְעֵינֵי כָל עַבְדָּיו :</p> <p>[KJ] And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants.</p> <p>[NRSV] The proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.</p>

<p>This pleased the king, and he did so.</p> <p>[NJPS] And let the maiden who pleases Your Majesty be queen instead of Vashti.</p> <p>The proposal pleased the king, and he acted upon it.</p>	<p>[NJPS] The Plan pleased Pharaoh and all his courtiers.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><u>אִסְתֵּר פָּרַק גַּ פְּסוּק ד</u> וַיְהִי כְּאֶמְרָם אֵלָיו יוֹם יוֹם וְלֹא שָׁמַע אֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּגִּדוּ לְהִמָּן לְרֵאוֹת הַיַּעֲמֹדוֹ דְּבָרֵי מְרֻדְכָי כִּי הִגִּיד לָהֶם אֲשֶׁר הוּא יְהוּדִי :</p> <p>[KJ] Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew.</p> <p>[NRSV] When they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's words would avail; for he had told them that he was a Jew.</p> <p>[NJPS] When they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's resolve would prevail; for he had explained to them that he was a Jew.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>בְּרֵאשִׁית פָּרַק לֵט פְּסוּק י</u> וַיְהִי כְּדַבְּרָהּ אֶל יוֹסֵף יוֹם יוֹם וְלֹא שָׁמַע אֲלֵיהָ לְשֹׁכֵב אֶצְלָהּ לְהִיּוֹת עִמָּה :</p> <p>[KJ] And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.</p> <p>[NRSV] And although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not consent to lie beside her or to be with her.</p> <p>[NJPS] And much as she coaxed Joseph day after day he did not yield to her request to lie beside her, to be with her.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;"><u>אסתר פרק ג פסוק י</u> וַיִּסֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת טַבַּעְתּוֹ מֵעַל יָדוֹ וַיִּתְּנָהּ לְהַמָּן ...</p> <p>[KJ] And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman</p> <p>[NRSV] So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman</p> <p>[NJPS] Thereupon the king removed his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>בראשית פרק מא</u> (מב) וַיִּסֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶת טַבַּעְתּוֹ מֵעַל יָדוֹ וַיִּתְּנוּ אֹתָהּ עַל יַד יוֹסֵף ...</p> <p>[KJ] And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, [NRSV] Removing his signet ring from his hand, Pharaoh put it on Joseph's hand;</p> <p>[NJPS] and removing his signet ring from his hand Pharaoh put it on Joseph's hand</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><u>אסתר פרק ו פסוק ט</u> וְנָתַן הַלְבוּשׁ וְהַסּוּס עַל יַד אִישׁ מִשָּׂרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ הַפְּרָתָמִים וְהַלְבִּישׁוּ אֶת הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ וְהִרְפִּיבֵהוּ עַל הַסּוּס בְּרוּחַב הָעִיר וְקָרְאוּ לְפָנָיו " כָּכָה יַעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ".</p> <p>[KJ] And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.</p> <p>[NRSV] Let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble officials; let him robe the man whom the king wishes to honor, and let him conduct the man on horseback through the open square of the city, proclaiming before him: 'Thus shall it be done for the man whom the king wishes to honor.'</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>בראשית פרק מא</u> (מב) ... וַיַּלְבֹּשׂ אֹתוֹ בְּגָדֵי שֵׁשׁ וַיִּשֶׂם רֶבֶד הַזָּהָב עַל צְוָאָרוֹ : (מג) וַיַּרְכַּב אֹתוֹ בְּמַרְכָּבַת הַמִּשְׁנָה אֲשֶׁר לוֹ וַיִּקְרְאוּ לְפָנָיו אֲבָרָם וְנָתַן אוֹתוֹ עַל כָּל אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם</p> <p>[KJ] and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.</p> <p>[NRSV] he arrayed him in garments of fine linen,]and put a gold chain around his neck. He had him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command; and they cried out in front of him, "Bow the knee!"^[a] Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt.</p>

<p>[NJPS] and let the attire and the horse be put in the charge of one of the king's noble courtiers. And let the man whom the king desires to honor be attired and paraded on the horse through the city square, while they proclaim before him: This is what is done for the man whom the king desires to honor!</p>	<p>a. <i>Abrek</i>, apparently an Egyptian word similar in sound to the Hebrew word meaning <i>to kneel</i></p> <p>[NJPS] And he had him dressed in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck He had him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command and they cried before him, "Abrek!" [c] thus he place him over all the land of Egypt.</p> <p>C. as above in a or: perhaps from an Egyptian word of unknown meaning</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><u>אִסְתֵּר פָּרַק חַ פְּסוּק ו</u> כִּי אֵיכָכָה אוֹכֵל וְרֵאִיתִי בְּרָעָה אֲשֶׁר יִמָּצֵא אֶת עַמִּי וְאֵיכָכָה אוֹכֵל וְרֵאִיתִי בְּאֶבְדֹן מוֹלְדֹתַי :</p> <p>[KJ] For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?</p> <p>[NRSV] For how can I bear to see the calamity that is coming on my people? Or how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?"</p> <p>[NJPS] For how can I bear to see the disaster which will befall my people! And how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred!</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>בְּרֵאשִׁית פָּרַק מִד</u> (לֵד) כִּי אֵיךְ אֶעֱלֶה אֶל אָבִי וְהִנֵּעַר אֵינְנוּ אִתִּי כִּן אֶרְאֶה בְּרָע אֲשֶׁר יִמָּצֵא אֶת אָבִי</p> <p>[KJ] For how shall I go up to my father, and the lad be not with me? lest peradventure I see the evil that shall come on my father.</p> <p>[NRSV] For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the suffering that would come upon my father."</p> <p>[NJPS] For how can I go back to my father unless the boy is with me? Let me not be witness to the woe that would overtake my father!</p>