

Payton, Bible Translation, Session 21, Genitive Phrases Resources from Notebooklm

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Payton, Bible Translation, Session 21, Genitive Phrases, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture by Dr. George Payton focuses on the complexities of translating genitive phrases in biblical Greek and Hebrew. He explains that while often indicating possession, these phrases have numerous other functions, such as indicating a part-whole relationship or the subject or object of an action. The lecture provides examples illustrating the different functions and offers strategies for translating them accurately into target languages, emphasizing clarity and explicitness over literal translations where necessary. The goal is to ensure the meaning of the original text is preserved and easily understood by the reader. Dr. Payton highlights that while some translations may work well in some languages, others may require rephrasing to maintain accuracy and avoid ambiguity.

2. 11 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Payton, Session 21, Genitive Phrases – Double click the icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Introductory Series → Bible Translation).



**Payton_BT_Session2
1.mp3**

3. Bible Translation: Session 21, Genitive Phrases

Genitive Phrases Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 complete sentences.

1. What is a genitive phrase, and what is its most common function?
2. Besides possession, what other relationships can a genitive phrase express? Give two examples.
3. Explain the difference between a subjective and an objective genitive. Provide an example of each.
4. How can the analysis of genitive phrases help in the process of Bible translation?
5. What does "the fruit of the Spirit" mean, and how does it relate to the Spirit?
6. Explain the genitive phrase, "the baptism of repentance."
7. How does the example "the love of God" demonstrate the challenge of genitive phrase interpretation?
8. What is the first step to analyzing a genitive phrase in preparation for translation?
9. What are two functions that need to be determined when translating genitive phrases?
10. When should a translator avoid modifying a genitive phrase and translate it using the form of the original text?

Quiz Answer Key

1. A genitive phrase consists of two nouns connected by the preposition "of" (or its equivalent). While often used to indicate possession, this construction can express a variety of relationships between the nouns.
2. A genitive phrase can express a part-whole relationship, like "the tail of the dog," or a source relationship, as in "gold of the land." These relationships extend beyond simple ownership.
3. A subjective genitive describes the subject performing an action, such as "the love of God," where God is the one loving. An objective genitive describes the object of an action, as in "fear of dogs," where dogs are what is feared.

4. Analyzing genitive phrases helps to clarify the precise relationship between nouns, which can be ambiguous. This understanding is crucial for accurate and meaningful translation across languages.
5. "The fruit of the Spirit" refers to qualities or actions produced by the Spirit, and therefore, it is not a matter of possession, but a manifestation resulting from the Spirit's work. The Spirit is the agent producing the fruit in people.
6. "The baptism of repentance" signifies that baptism is a sign or demonstration of one's repentance. Therefore, baptism does not cause repentance, but rather it symbolizes it.
7. "The love of God" can be interpreted in multiple ways – either God's love for people or people's love for God. The context is necessary to determine which relationship the genitive phrase intends to convey.
8. The first step in analyzing a genitive phrase for translation is to determine the relationship between the two nouns. That includes identifying if one noun is the subject or object of the action described by the phrase, for example.
9. When translating a genitive phrase, you need to determine both the relationship between the nouns (e.g., subject, object, source) and the function of the phrase (e.g., description, action, possession).
10. A translator should avoid modifying a genitive phrase if the phrase's meaning and function are clear and communicated effectively in the target language. If the original phrasing is easily understood, it is not necessary to alter it.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Answer each question in a well-organized essay with supporting evidence from the provided text.

1. Discuss the challenges in translating genitive phrases, drawing on examples from the text. How do these challenges underscore the importance of careful analysis in translation work?
2. Compare and contrast subjective and objective genitives, providing examples of how each can be interpreted in context. How does understanding this distinction aid in translation?

3. Explain how the meaning of the genitive phrase "the love of God" can be understood in multiple ways. How does a translator decide what the most accurate interpretation would be?
4. Describe the process of analyzing a genitive phrase for translation and explain why understanding the function of the phrase is crucial for accurate communication.
5. Analyze the different examples of genitive phrases mentioned in the source text (e.g., "the city of Jerusalem," "the gifts of the Holy Spirit," "the land of Havilah"). What makes each unique, and how do those unique qualities impact translation decisions?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Genitive Phrase:** A phrase in any language (but in this study, referring to Greek and Hebrew) consisting of two nouns connected by the preposition "of" (or its equivalent), which can express various relationships beyond simple possession.
- **Subjective Genitive:** A genitive phrase where the first noun is the subject or agent performing the action described or implied by the second noun. (E.g., "the love of God," where God is the one loving).
- **Objective Genitive:** A genitive phrase where the first noun is the object or receiver of the action described or implied by the second noun. (E.g., "fear of dogs," where the dogs are the object of the fear.)
- **Partitive:** A use of the genitive phrase that indicates a part-whole relationship. (E.g., "the tail of the dog").
- **Source:** A use of the genitive phrase that indicates the origin or source of the first noun from the second noun. (E.g., "gold of the land".)
- **Function:** The specific purpose or role of the genitive phrase in a sentence. For example, the function may be describing something, showing an action, or indicating possession.
- **Translation:** The process of conveying the meaning of a text from one language to another, considering not just individual words but also grammatical structures and cultural contexts.
- **Target Language:** The language into which a text is being translated.
- **Explicit:** Clearly and directly stated, leaving no room for ambiguity or implied meaning.

4. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided source, "Payton_BT__EN_Session21.pdf," focusing on Dr. George Payton's lecture on translating genitive phrases in the Bible:

Briefing Document: Translating Genitive Phrases in Biblical Texts

Source: "Payton_BT__EN_Session21.pdf" (Excerpts from Dr. George Payton's Session 21 on Genitive Phrases in Bible Translation)

Date: October 26, 2023

Author: Dr. George Payton

1. Introduction: The Challenge of Genitive Phrases

- Dr. Payton identifies genitive phrases (two nouns joined by "of" in English, corresponding to Greek and Hebrew grammatical structures) as a significant challenge in Bible translation.
- While genitive phrases often indicate possession ("my mother's house"), their functions are far more diverse in biblical languages (Greek and Hebrew).
- The goal of this session is to understand the various functions of genitive phrases and develop strategies for accurate translation.
- "A genitive phrase is a phrase in any language, but particularly in our case in Greek and Hebrew, that contains two nouns joined by the preposition of."

2. Key Concepts: Functions Beyond Possession

- **Partitive:** Indicating a part of a whole (e.g., "the tail of the dog," "a bucket of water"). Not about ownership, but a component or containing relationship.
- **Subjective Genitive:** The first noun relates to the subject performing the action described by the second noun (e.g., "the love of God" - God is the one loving). God is the doer of the action. "God is the one who is loving, so He's the subject of this action of loving."
- **Objective Genitive:** The first noun relates to the object of the action described by the second noun (e.g., "fear of dogs" - the boy is fearing the dogs). "It's somehow describing this object."
- **Other Functions:** The lecture illustrates several functions, including:

- **Source/Origin:** ("gold of that land") - Gold that is found in that land, indicating source.
- **Time:** ("in the days of Herod") - indicates the time of Herod.
- **Description/Location:** ("City of Jerusalem" - the city is named Jerusalem), ("city of Galilee" - a city located in Galilee), ("city of David" - David's hometown).
- **Activity:** ("baptism of repentance") - baptism is a sign of repentance, "getting baptized shows that they have repented."

3. The Translation Process: Decoding and Expressing the Relationship

- **Step 1: Analysis:** Determine the relationship between the two nouns. Consider if it's subjective (subject performing the action), objective (object being acted upon), or another relationship (source, location, etc.) "First of all, you consider whether it's the subject of the verb or an object, whether it is being described or is it someone describing a person doing the action, or somehow the person is related to the action. In what ways does the second noun modify the first one, or does the first one modify the second one?"
- **Step 2: Interpretation:** Understand the *function* of the phrase within the context. For example, is it describing an action, a gift, or a quality? "The function is to describe the work of the Holy Spirit. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit is describing what they will be given, and so that description is the important part."
- **Step 3: Target Language Expression:** Translate the genitive phrase in a way that is clear and natural in the target language. This may require moving beyond a simple "of" construction. "What we try to do is then express the relationship between these nouns in an explicit way so that people can make it clearer what it is that they're reading and what the relationship is between these two words." "Explore different options for translating these different phrases. What are the different ways that they can say things in the target language?"
- **Retain if clear:** If the target language can directly translate "of" and the meaning is clear, then no change is necessary. "If it communicates fine, then as we say, if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

- **Adjust for clarity:** If the direct translation is awkward or unclear, rephrase to express the underlying relationship with verbs, prepositions, or other structures. "However, if it sounds awkward, it does not communicate, and it doesn't make the relationship and or the function explicit, then we need to readjust it and say things more explicitly in a clear way so that people understand."

4. Examples and Illustrations

- **Luke 1:5 ("in the days of Herod, king of Judah"):** Translated as "at the time when Herod ruled over Judah," or "when Herod ruled as king over Judah".
- **Luke 1:6 ("in the sight of God"):** Translated as "God saw that Zacharias and Elizabeth were righteous" or "who God saw that."
- **Examples relating to location:** A city of Galilee can be translated as "a city which is located in Galilee region, or in the region of Galilee."
- **The city of Joppa** - "The city called or named Joppa."
- **Bethlehem, the city of David**- "David's hometown" or "the region where he grew up in."
- **Capernaum, a city of Andrew and Peter** - "the city where Andrew and Peter lived."
- **Genesis 2:11-12 ("land of Havilah," "gold of that land"):** Translated as "The land was named Havilah, and gold from that land."
- **Acts 2:38 ("gift of the Holy Spirit"):** Translated as "God will give you the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit *is* the gift.
- **Acts 12 ("gifts of the Holy Spirit"):** Translated as "gifts that the Holy Spirit gives." The Holy Spirit is the *giver* of gifts.
- **John 5:42 ("love of God"):** Rephrased based on context. Could mean either "God's love for you" (subjective, less likely) or "your love for God" (objective, more likely). The context indicates that Jesus was accusing them of not loving God.

5. Key Takeaways and Challenges

- Genitive phrases are not always about possession; translators must consider the specific relationship between the nouns.
- Understanding the function of the phrase is crucial for accurately conveying its meaning.
- Translators should not be afraid to rephrase genitive constructions if a direct translation is unclear or misleading in the target language.
- Context is extremely important when analyzing and translating genitive phrases.
- Abstract phrases require additional thought and clarification for proper interpretation (e.g., "love of God").
- Sometimes the same phrase can have two different meanings depending on the context (e.g., *gift of the Holy Spirit*, *gifts of the Holy Spirit*).

6. Conclusion

Dr. Payton's session emphasizes the importance of careful analysis and creative expression when translating genitive phrases. By considering the relationship and function of these phrases and paying attention to the specific context, translators can produce more accurate and meaningful versions of the Bible in various languages. The goal of translation is not literalism but clear communication.

5. FAQs on Payton, Bible Translation, Session 21, Genitive Phrases, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ: Genitive Phrases in Biblical Translation

1. **What is a genitive phrase, and why is it a challenge in Bible translation?** A genitive phrase is a construction, typically using the preposition "of," that links two nouns. While often indicating possession (like "my mother's house"), genitive phrases have many other functions in languages like Greek and Hebrew. The challenge for translators arises because these relationships can be ambiguous. Simply translating "of" literally may not capture the intended meaning. Understanding the nuances of these phrases is crucial to ensuring that the translated text conveys the original message accurately.
2. **What are the main functions of genitive phrases beyond showing possession?** Genitive phrases have two primary functional categories: subjective and objective. A *subjective* genitive indicates the noun performing the action, such as "the love of God" where God is the one loving. An *objective* genitive describes the object of an action or relationship. For instance, "the fear of dogs" where dogs are the object of the fear. Other functions include a partitive genitive (a part of a whole: "tail of the dog"), a descriptive genitive (a characteristic of something: "city of Jerusalem"), and genitives indicating the origin or source of something ("gold of that land"). These numerous functions move beyond simple ownership and require careful analysis to understand and translate correctly.
3. **How do translators determine the correct meaning of a genitive phrase when it's not a simple possession?** Translators analyze the relationship between the two nouns in a genitive phrase. They determine if the first noun is the subject of an action, an object, or neither. They consider how the second noun modifies the first, or vice-versa, and explicitly state this relationship. For example, "the coming of the Lord" is interpreted as "the time when the Lord will come," making the time aspect explicit. The key is to express the inherent relationship in a way that is clear in the target language.
4. **Can you give an example of how a subjective genitive is used in the Bible?** The phrase "the love of God" can be a subjective genitive. It refers to God being the one who is loving and that action of loving is what is being described. Thus "the love of God" can be interpreted to mean "God loves." This understanding is not about God's possession of love but is about God as the subject of loving.

5. **How does the 'gifts of the Holy Spirit' differ from 'the gift of the Holy Spirit', and how does that relate to genitive phrases?** Both phrases use the genitive construction but have different meanings. "The gift of the Holy Spirit" refers to the Holy Spirit Himself being the gift from God. In contrast, "the gifts of the Holy Spirit" refers to the various abilities and spiritual empowerments that the Holy Spirit gives to believers. While the wording is nearly identical, understanding the function of the genitive phrases clarifies their distinct meanings. One describes what is being given, the other describes who gives the gifts.
6. **Why is rephrasing a genitive phrase often necessary during translation?** While some languages may use genitive phrases similarly to the source languages, many languages do not have the same construction or the same diverse function. If a literal translation using "of" sounds awkward or does not accurately convey the relationship, a translator must rephrase the genitive construction to be explicit and clear. This often involves using verbs or different prepositions to articulate the intended meaning. The goal is to ensure the translated text communicates the precise relationship between the nouns.
7. **What steps should a translator take when dealing with a genitive phrase?** A translator should first analyze the specific relationship between the two nouns, determining the intended function (subjective, objective, etc.). Then, they should explore how that relationship can be most clearly expressed in the target language. This often involves breaking down the phrase to make it more explicit, using verbs, and making the relationship between nouns in the phrase transparent. The translator will evaluate if a literal translation is possible but ultimately prioritize clarity over literal consistency,
8. **Does "love of God" always have one meaning?** No, "love of God" is an abstract phrase with variable meaning, depending on the context. It can refer to God's love *for* someone else (subjective genitive). It can also refer to *someone's* love *for* God (objective genitive). The context is crucial to determine which is intended. Translators must carefully analyze the context to ensure the correct meaning is conveyed and to avoid misinterpreting the source text. For example, the passage in John 5:42, where Jesus says, "you do not have the love of God in your hearts," means those being addressed do not love God and not that God does not love them.