

A Comparative Study on Some Biblical Expressions in *The Authorized Version*

Michiko Matsumoto

The period of Early Modern English was the golden era of the English Bible. Since the publication of *The Tyndale Bible* in 1526, famous and important Bibles had continually been published for nearly one hundred years. In 1611, *The Authorized Version (AV)* was published as the final fruit of this period. There are some frequently used words in *AV* which are thought to be key biblical expressions. In this thesis, I examined some of the unique and original features of the biblical expressions in *AV* with a special reference to the noun *fruit* or *fruits* and the verb *to cast*. I used seven Bibles as reference corpora to *AV*: *The Tyndale Bible* (1534: the second edition), *The Coverdale Bible* (1535), *The Matthew Bible* (1537), *The Great Bible* (1539), *The Geneva Bible* (1560 / 1599), *The Bishops' Bible* (1568), and *The Douay-Rheims Bible* (1582 / 1609, 1610), which are said to have influenced on the editing of *AV*.

After studying a historical relation between *AV* and the seven Bibles and their influence on *AV* in Chapter I, the use of *fruit* or *fruits* in *AV* was compared with that in the seven Bibles in Chapter II. *Fruit* is used 209 times; 141 in The Old Testament and 68 in The New Testament and *fruits* is used 46 times; 31 in The Old Testament and 15 in The New Testament. The total number of *fruit* and *fruits* in *AV* is 255. In the Bible, *fruit* or *fruits* has four meanings according to *OED*: (1) the edible product of a plant or tree (s.v. *fruit*, n. 2.), (2) vegetable products in general (s.v. *fruit*, n. 1.), (3) resulting from an action or effort (s.v. *fruit*, n. 7.), and (4) offspring or progeny (s.v. *fruit*, n. 6.). Considering these meanings, I conducted a quantitative analysis of the noun.

In Chapter III, *to cast* and its phrasal verbs in *AV* were compared with those in the seven Bibles. *To cast* is used 498 times; 332 in The Old Testament and 166 in The New Testament. There are 18 forms of *to cast* and its phrasal verbs used in *AV*. I compared all of these examples in *AV* with those in the seven Bibles in respect to 32 meanings, and analysed their usage by a quantitative method. The analysis showed that there were 7 types of different verbs and phrases used in the seven Bibles.

Preceding studies suggested that *AV*, especially in The New Testament,

inherited 80 to 90% of its style from *The Tyndale Bible*. However, my analysis showed that *AV* is similar not only to *The Tyndale Bible* but also to the other six Bibles. In respect to *fruit* or *fruits*, the seven Bibles shared *AV*'s translation choice approximately 80.0% in The Old Testament, and over 90.0% in The New Testament. *AV* is distinct from the other seven Bibles in its unwillingness to alternate verbs in place of *to cast*, relying instead on phrasal verbs and adverbs to clarify meaning.