

5^e communication | Workshop 5

Isabelle Schmiederer (Universität de Fribourg)

Jüdische und christliche Bibelübersetzung im Vergleich. Das ‚Glossaire de Leipzig‘ im Kontext der deutschsprachigen Translationstradition

Literature is a vehicle of knowledge. Based on the premise that language is a human-made construct – and is therefore shaped by its environment – it can be assumed that written works convey historical, sociocultural, and ideological values that can be examined from the perspective of the sociology of knowledge. Against the backdrop of this assumption, the dissertation project presented here will examine Jewish and Christian biblical texts from the 14th century. The interreligious perspective promises to reveal sociocultural differences in exegesis and aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of denomination-specific processes of reception in the premodern era. The corpus of sources selected for this purpose includes the *Glossaire de Leipzig*, the *Schlierbacher Alte Testament*, and the *Wenzelsbibel*; from which three text excerpts of the Book of *Genesis* (Hebrew: בְּרֵאשִׁית) will be analyzed from the perspective of the sociology of knowledge and ultimately examined in comparison. With the aim of conducting a thorough and precise study, narratives were selected that deal with social interaction and interpersonal relationships – arguably one of the most realistic core themes of religious texts.

The doctoral project described here is being conducted as part of the project “Bible Glossaries as Hidden Cultural Carriers. Judeo-French Exchange in the Middle Ages”¹ at the *Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften*, which focuses on six multilingual Judeo-French biblical glossaries from the 13th and 14th centuries. From a Germanic Studies perspective, the *Glossaire* stands out as a unique feature within this corpus of sources. In addition to Hebrew, Aramaic, and Old French components, it also contains German-language glosses, which – like all nonsemitic elements – were written using Hebrew orthography (allography) and are distinguished from the rest of the text by the use of vowel marks.

In the context of the project, aspects of immateriality play a major role, particularly in the form of the open-source working environment BIMA 2.1 (Biblical Masorah Database 2.1), through which the manuscripts are digitally processed; specifically, this means that the textual components are transcribed, annotated, assigned to the corresponding Bible passages, and their interconnections are analyzed (referring to a reference system inherent to the source). Therefore the integration of digital methods functions, on the one hand, as a means of targeted data collection and, on the other hand, as a platform on which information is enriched, recorded, and made accessible – or, in other words, as a modern vehicle of knowledge.

¹ To learn more about the project, see: <https://en.hadw-bw.de/bibelglossare> (accessed on the 6 August 2026).

