

Mark 1:4

A deep-structure analysis and dynamic equivalence translation*

GRK εγενετο Ιωαννης βαπτιζων εν τη ερημω και κηρυσσων βαπτισμα μετανοιας εις αφεσιν αμαρτιων

LIT Came John baptizing en the wilderness and announcing baptism of repentance unto forgiving of sins.

ESV John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Deep structure elements:

O=objects (persons), E=events (actions), A=abstract (qualities), R=relations

O E E R E R E R E
John ... preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins

Kernel sentences:

1. John preached (discourse).
2. John baptized people.
3. People repent (turn from sins).
4. God forgives (people).
5. People sin.

Observed relations in context of the book and of the New Testament:

- Goal of John's preaching = kernels 2 through 5.
- Kernel 3 precedes kernel 2 in time, combined by 'and'.
- Kernel 4 is the goal of kernel 5.
- kernel 4 is the purpose of kernels 3 and 2.

Recombination of elements:

John ... preached: You sinned. You turn from sins. I baptize you. God forgives you.

Natural language:

GNB So John appeared in the desert, baptizing and preaching. "Turn away from your sins and be baptized," he told the people, "and God will forgive your sins."

WOL Noonu Yaxya feeñ ca màndiŋ ma, di sóob nit ñi ci ndox, tey waaree nii: «Tuubleen seeni bàkkaar, ba noppi ma sóob leen ci ndox, ngir Yàlla baal leen seeni bàkkaar.»

BAK Thus, John appeared in the wilderness, dipping the people in water, and preaching like this: "Turn from your sins, when done I dip you in water, for God to forgive you your sins."

* Adapted from Nida & Taber, *Theory & Practice of Translation* (Leiden: Brill, 1969), 51.