***The history of translation indicates that translation took place as a way of encouraging trade between countries and a way of spreading messages in relation to religious beliefs and ideas formulated by early philosophers, academics, and thinkers. In another word; translating has played an important role in bridging both the linguistic and cultural divide that has long existed between countries and civilization***

***Ancient history of translation***

The history of translation (as distinct from oral interpreting) must have started soon after the [development of writing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_writing), the expression of language with letters or other marks. The earliest records of writing date back to Egyptian glyphs from about 3400 BCE. However, the earliest records of translation do not appear until nearly a thousand years later, as bilingual or even trilingual inscriptions. The earliest of these date back to about 2500 BCE in the form of [clay tablets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebla_tablets) with bilingual vocabularies in Sumerian and [Eblaite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eblaite_language) .

Perhaps the best known example of these multilingual inscriptions is the [Rosetta Stone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosetta_Stone) which is an interesting artifact relating to translation. This stele contains the same text written in three different scripts: Egyptian Hieroglyphic, Egyptian Demotic and Ancient Greek. At the time of its discovery, Egyptian Hieroglyphs remained a mystery. But finding this stone meant that scholars could decipher these texts using Ancient Greek. It was found in 1799 by the French during Napoleon’s campaign in Egypt. As it was the key to our current understanding of ancient Egyptian culture. However, when the British defeated the French in 1801, they took the stone. It is now held by the British Museum in London.

* *Religious Translation :*

Many early translations were religious in nature. The history of translation shows that throughout the history of the bible that the Old Testament which was written in Hebrew was translated into Greek for the Egyptians who spoke Greek sometime between 200 and300 BCE. Later in the 4th Century.

One of the best known is the [Septuagint](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Septuagint) a name that refers to the seventy scholars who were commissioned to translate the Hebrew Bible into Greek ( in Alexandriaà, and is often referred to as the Greek Old Testament. The name comes from the seventy two Jewish scholars who translated the Pentateuch (Five Books of Moses or Torah) in the third century BC. Each translator worked in solitary confinement in his own cell, and according to legend all seventy versions proved identical.

* Transltion’s icones :

* **St. Jerome** one of the famous translators in the history of translation who lived from 347-420 AD He was a Christian scholar who as a language translator was able to translate the Bible into Greek and Latin from Hebrew. He also produced the standard Latin Bible, or Vulgate, but this was criticised strongly by St. Augustine, as it was the official Catholic Bible translation and used for thousands of years. St Jerome hasn’t lost his impact today as he is the patron saint of translators and this day is celebrated by translators on 30th September every year. BUT he was not the only one. Bishop [Ulfila](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulfilas) (ca. 311-382) translated the Bible from Greek into Gothic. Since Gothic was spoken but not written at that time, he had to develop an alphabet for the purpose.
* **Cicero**, a statesman, orator, lawyer and philosopher, was also a translator from Greek to Latin, and compared the translator to an artist, Cicero famously cautioned against translating “word for word” (“verbum pro verbo”) in “On the Orator” (“De Oratore”, 55 BCE): “I did not think I ought to count them [the words] out to the reader like coins, but to pay them by weight, as it were.
* *English translations of the bible*

There are several translations of parts of the Bible into Old English. These include some by the Venerable Bede and Aldhelm in the 7th century, the [Wessex Gospels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wessex_Gospels)  in about 990, and the first six books of the Old Testament ([Hexateuch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_English_Hexateuch)), translated under the guidance of Abbott Ælfric of Eynsham (c. 955 – c. 1010).

* *Translations from Greek into Arabic*

From about the middle of the eighth century to the end of the tenth, Baghdad was the centre of a massive [translation project](http://www.historyofinformation.com/expanded.php?id=4570). Baghdad was founded in 762 by Caliph Al-Mansur, who continued a Persian tradition of translation of secular texts (especially on medicine, philosophy and astronomy) in his palace library, the ‘[House of Wisdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Wisdom)’*.* He actively sought texts from the Byzantine Empire and the Near East – mainly in Greek but also in Syriac, Persian and Sanskrit – and had them translated into Arabic. These texts included works by Euclid, Plato, Aristotle and Proclus as well as all the [Hippocratic Corpus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hippocratic_Corpus) and the works of [Galen](https://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/arabic/bioG.html). Many translators were involved and well rewarded; the best known is [Hunayn ibn Ishâq](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hunayn_ibn_Ishaq) (809-875), who, as a practising physician and the author of treatises on the eyes and teeth, was well qualified to translate medical texts. These translations ultimately contributed to the [transmission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transmission_of_the_Greek_Classics) of scientific and philosophical knowledge to Europe in the Middle Ages.

* *Translations from Arabic into Latin*

During the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, numerous scholars and translators were attracted to Spain from all over Europe to study the collections of Arabic manuscripts held in libraries such as those in Toledo and Cordoba, where they translated many of these manuscripts into Castilian and Latin. Among the earlier translations were philosophical works by Aristotle; later translations focused on astronomy, astrology, physics, mathematics and medicine. Almost all of the Hippocratic Corpus as well as the works of [Galen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galen) and [Avicenna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avicenna) were translated (many of them by [Gerard of Cremona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerard_of_Cremona)) and then used in the curricula of the earliest universities in Europe.