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The Translation Technique of the Septuagint of the Book of
Ruth: In Search of its Characterisation through the Analysis
of the Greek rendering of the Hebrew *Hapax Legomena*

Beatrice Bonanno

UCLouvain, Belgium

Institut de recherche pluridisciplinaire Religions,
Spiritualités, Cultures, Sociétés

Faculty of Theology



OVERVIEW

- Introduction
- Registration of data
- Analysis of the Greek rendering of the Hebrew *hapax legomena*
 - Ruth 1,13 תַּעֲנֶנָּה - κατασχεθήσεσθε
 - Ruth 2,14 וַיִּצְבֹּט - ἐβούνισεν
 - Ruth 2,16 הַצְבֹּתִים - τῶν βεβουλισμένων
 - Ruth 3,2 מִדַּעְתָּנוּ - γνώριμος
- Conclusions



INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Defining “*hapax legomena*”
 - ▶ Absolute *hapax legomena*
 - ▶ Non-absolute *hapax legomena*
- ▶ The LXX of Ruth
 - ▶ Literal and precise Translation to the supposed Hebrew *Vorlage*
- ▶ Aim of this paper
 - ▶ To offer a more nuanced characterisation of the translation technique of the Greek translator of the LXX-Ruth
 - ▶ To gain a better understanding of the particularities of the LXX text

REGISTRATION OF THE DATA

Biblical reference	MT	LXX	2QRuth ^a	4QRuth ^b	Definition
1:13	תַּעֲגֹנָה	κατασχεθήσεσθε		תַּעֲגֹנִי	absolute
2:14	וַיִּצְבֹּט	ἐβούμισεν	וַיִּצְבֹּט		absolute
2:16	הַצְּבֹתִים	τῶν βεβουμισμένων			absolute
3:2	מִדְּעָתָנוּ	γνώριμος	מִדְּעָתָנוּ		non-absolute



Ruth 1:13 תַּעֲגֹבְתִי - κατασχεθήσεσθε


- ▶ Different *Vorlage*?
- ▶ Grammatically: the equivalences *niphal* = passive and *yiqtol* = future
- ▶ Semantically: use of the passive
- ▶ Greek translator? He renders his *Vorlage* in a literal as well as faithful manner

Ruth 2:14 - וַיִּצְבֹּט - ἐβούτισεν

MT	LXX	2QRuth ^a
<p>וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ בְּעוֹ לַעֲתָה הָאֵכֶל גְּשִׁי הַלֶּם וְאִכְלֵתְ מִן־הַלֶּחֶם וְטַבְלֵתְ פַתְדָּךְ בְּחֶמְצָה וְתֵשֶׁב מֵצֵד הַקּוֹצִיִּים וַיִּצְבֹּט־לָהּ קָלִי וְתֹאכַל וְתִשְׁבַּע וְתִתֵּר:</p>	<p>καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ Βόος Ἦδη ὥρα τοῦ φαγεῖν πρόσελθε ὧδε καὶ φάγεσαι τῶν ἄρτων καὶ βάψεις τὸν ψωμόν σου ἐν τῷ ὄξει. καὶ ἐκάθισεν Ῥοῦθ ἐκ πλαγίων τῶν θεριζόντων, καὶ ἐβούτισεν αὐτῇ Βόος ἄλφιτον, καὶ ἔφαγεν καὶ ἐνεπλήσθη καὶ κατέλιπεν.</p>	<p>[מ] הַקּוֹצִיִּים וַיִּצְבֹּט לָהּ קָלִי וְתֹאכַל וְתִשְׁבַּע וְתִתֵּר]</p>

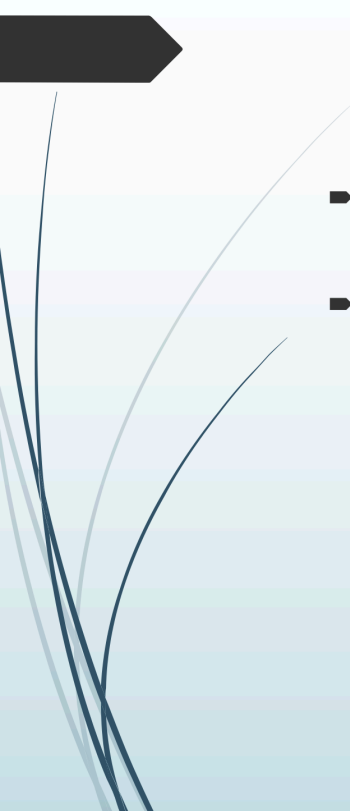
Ruth 2:16 הַצִּבְתִּים - τῶν βεβουτισμένων

MT	LXX	2QRuth ^a
<p>וְגַם שֶׁל־תְּשִׁלוּ לָהּ מִן־הַצִּבְתִּים וְעִזְבֹתָם וְלִקְטָהּ וְלֹא תִגְעְרוּ־ בָּהּ:</p>	<p>καὶ βαστάζοντες βαστάξατε αὐτῇ καὶ γε παραβάλλοντες παραβαλεῖτε αὐτῇ ἐκ τῶν βεβουτισμένων, καὶ ἄφετε καὶ συλλέξει, καὶ οὐκ ἐπιτιμήσετε αὐτῇ.</p>	<p>]לש [[ש]וטבתם ולקט]אל [</p>



Ruth 2:14 וַיִּצְבֹּט - ἐβούουσεν
Ruth 2:16 הַצְּבֹטִים - τῶν βεβουουισμῆνων

- “Unifying translation” (“Vereinheitlichende Übersetzung”) from צָבַר (Bons)
- Ignorance of the meaning of the *hapax legomena* and links them to צָבַר (De Waard)
- Renderings that are appropriate to the context (Quast)
- Reading of a different and similar Hebrew word (Spottorno Díaz-Caro)



Ruth 2:14 וַיִּצְבֹּט - ἐβούνοσεν
Ruth 2:16 הַצְּבָתִים - τῶν βεβουνοσμένων

- Different *Vorlage*?
- Process of translation
 - Unconscious reading
 - The translator reads וַיִּצְבֹּט and הַצְּבָתִים from the same root
 - Conscious choice
 - The translator considers ט and ת as alternative spellings
 - He chooses to render the two *hapax legomena* with a unique verb
 - He understands the meaning of the of the two *hapax legomena*
 - He guesses it from the context

The verb βουνίζω

- ▶ Ruth 2,14.16
 - ▶ וַיִּצְבֹּט - ἐβούνισεν
 - ▶ הַצְּבֹתִים - τῶν βεβουμισμένων
- ▶ Zach 9,3 in 8Hev XII gr
 - ▶ וַתִּצְבֹּר - ἐβούνισεν (LXX ἐθησαύρισεν)
- ▶ Connection between ἐβούνισεν and τῶν βεβουμισμένων in the LXX-Ruth, respectively in 2,14.16, and ἐβούνισεν in Zac 9:3 (8Hev XII gr)?
 - ▶ Palestinian *milieu* in the period between the I century B.C.E to the I century C.E.?
 - ▶ Recensional work ?
 - ▶ Ruth 2,14.16 ἐδράκισεν / ἐκ τῶν δεδρακισμένων (α' σ' θ')
 - ἐβούνισεν / τῶν βεβουμισμένων < ἐδράκισεν / ἐκ τῶν δεδρακισμένων
 - ▶ Zac 9,3 (8Hev XII gr) ἐβούνισεν > ἐθησαύρισεν

Ruth 3:2 - מִדַּעְתָּנוּ - γνῶριμος

MT	LXX	2QRuth ^a
וְעַתָּה הֲלֹא בָעַז מִדַּעְתָּנוּ אֲשֶׁר הָיִית אֶת־נַעֲרוֹתַי הַנְּהִיָּהוּא זָרָה אֶת־גֶּרְן הַשְּׂעָרִים הַלְּיָלָה:	καὶ νῦν οὐχὶ Βόσος γνῶριμος ἡμῶν, οὗ ἤς μετὰ τῶν κορασίων αὐτοῦ; ἴδοὺ αὐτὸς λιμαῖ τὸν ἄλωνα τῶν κριθῶν ταύτη τῆ νυκτί.	[בְּעַז מַדְעַ] [אֲשֶׁר הָיִית אֶת] [ה הוּא] [רן] השערים

Ruth 3:2 מִדְּעָתָנוּ - γνώριμος

- Etymological rendering (Bons)
- Shift in meaning: “relative” (MT), “known person” (LXX)

Conclusions

- ▶ Characterisation of the translation technique of the LXX-translator
 - ▶ Literal and faithful (1,13)
 - ▶ Faithful (3,2)
 - ▶ Creative and independent from *Vorlage* (2,14.16)

- ▶ Better understanding of the particularities of his text
 - ▶ Shift in the meaning (3,2)
 - ▶ Lexical coincidence between the LXX-Ruth 2,14.16 and 8ἤευ XII gr Zac 9,3
 - ▶ Same *milieu* of the two translations?
 - ▶ Different process of revision of the two texts



Thank you for your attention!