


# Asymmetrical Byzantine Greek -Old Bulgarian Translation Equivalents in Constantine of Preslav's *Učitel'noe Evangelie* (UE)

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## Background

Constantine of Preslav's *Učitel'noe Evangelie* (late 9th c.) comprises 51 orations **combining translated** Byzantine catenae, and, in part, homilies on the Sunday Gospel readings **with authored** parts. It was scholarly edited (Tikhova 2012) and later accompanied by bilingual word indices (Taseva, Kotova, Petrov, Dikova, Stankovska, Mitov 2024 ).

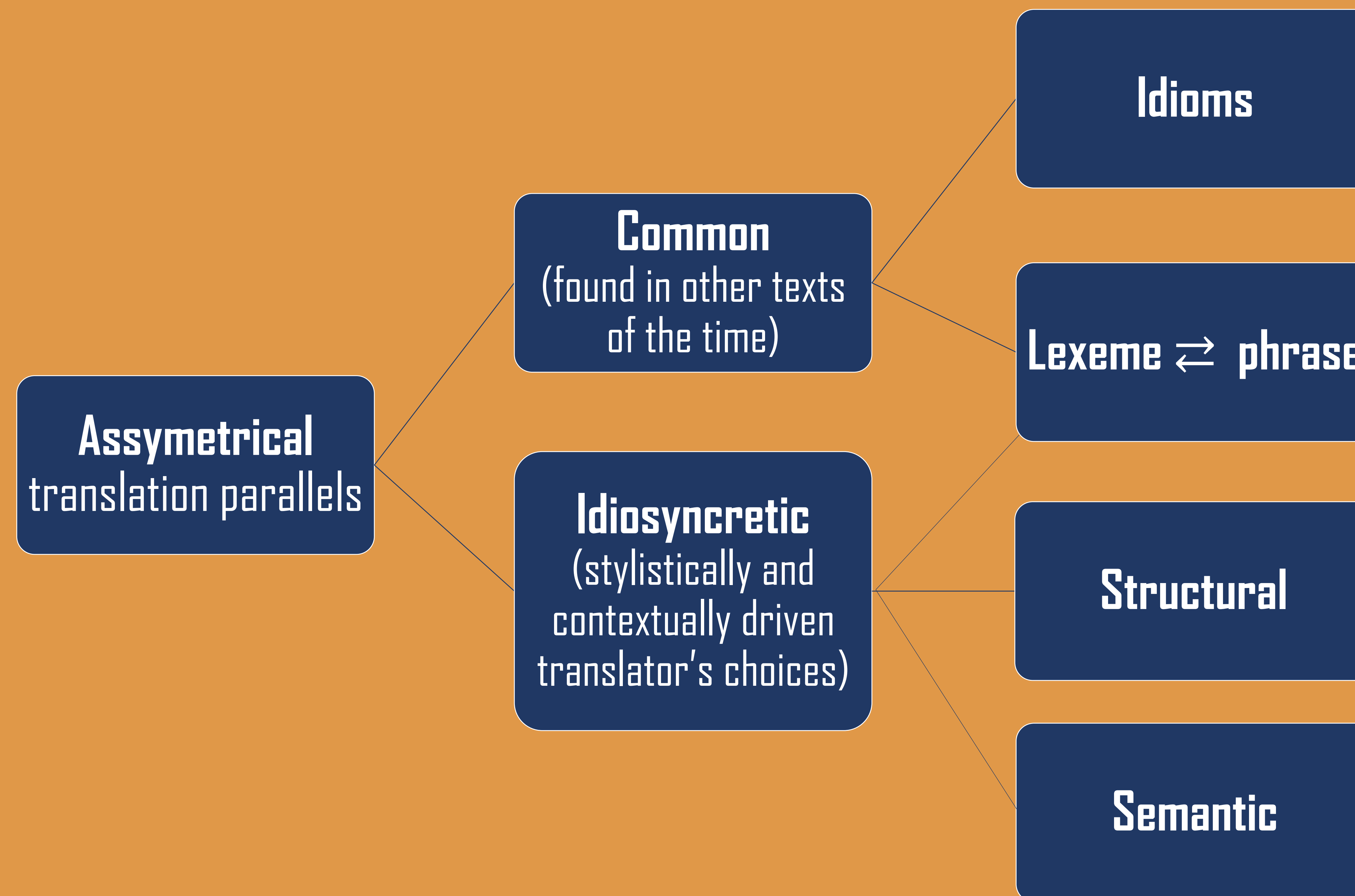
## Methodology

Two translation strategies are studied: the rendering of Greek phrases into single Old Bulgarian words (and vice versa) and the addition of clarifying elements in the target text. Instances of quantitative and qualitative asymmetries are systematically identified, classified and analyzed.

## Conclusion

Synonymy of translation equivalents reflects attention to **semantic nuances** and desire for variation of the statement in the spirit of **classical rhetoric**. Contextually and stylistically conditioned phraseological correspondences reveal the translator's inclination to **simplify complex expressions** and **clarify** vague parts. UE documents stable idiomatic patterns that have become an **integral part** of the Bulgarian **phraseological wealth**.

# Constantine of Preslav demonstrates a rhetorically sensitive, semantically creative, and audience-oriented approach to translation in UE.



To the full paper:



## Common asymmetrical parallels

- Idioms  
κακῶς ἔχω : болѣти; λαμβάνω αἴσθησιν : чоути...  
ἔξεστι : лѣтъ естъ; πορνεύω : любы сътворити
- Compound adverbs  
παρὰ τὴν ἀρχὴν : запрѣва; οἴκαδε : въ домѣ си...
- Prefixed word ↔ prepositional phrase  
ἔξαπορέω : въ недоумѣннѣ въврѣци;  
ὑποχείριος : подъ ржкоиж; безначальнѣ : ὁ ἐπέκεινα ἀρχῆς; ὁ πρὸ αἰώνων : прѣвѣчнѣ...
- Phrase ↔ (compound) word  
τῶν ἀλεκτρυόν βοή : коуроглашение...  
ἀξιόπιστος : достоинъ вѣры/ достовѣрнѣ...  
ταπεινοφροσύνη : съмѣриена мждрость/ съмѣромждрость/ съмѣриеномждрость...

## Idiosyncretic asymmetrical parallels

- Double translation or hendiadys  
ἄλωσις : прѣятнѣ и плѣниениѣ; ἐπίτριμμα : помазание красоты... κοῖλος καὶ χθαμαλός : ждольнѣ; προθυμία καὶ σπουδή : тѣцпна волѣ...
- Structural  
ἄλωσις : жже желѣзно; ἑσπέρα : вечернѣе врѣмѣ; σάββατον : день свѣотнѣ...  
προπετής γνώμη : дрѣзость; εἰς ἀγωνίαν ἐμβάλλω : сътжжати; μέχρις ἐννοίας λαμβάνω : помъслити...
- Semantic  
κωμῳδέω : въсьличьскы ржгати са; τοὺς περὶ τὸν Ἀβραάμ : авраамовоу чадъ; διάνοια μεμερμνημένη : оумьно прилежание...

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