

## **PHRASES FROM THE BIBLE IN ENGLISH, GERMAN AND SERBIAN LANGUAGE**

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In this work phrases from the Bible in English, German and Serbian language, will be compared and the description of their similarities and differences will be presented, from the morpho-syntactic, lexical and semantic aspect, as well as pragmatical, respectively, that is, the level of concordance in the domain of forms and content-related meanings. On the basis of their similarities and differences, the level of concordance will be determined; namely, the degree of equivalence, which will be marked by total, partial or zero equivalence. Using the method of contrastive analysis, the method of literal translation (and the grammar-translation-method) Biblical verses and idiomatic distinctive features will be compared on the basis of lexical and phraseological criteria, in which English language will be the source language, and German and Serbian target languages. This analytical approach is primarily based on the hypotheses that members of the same language family will show far greater concordance in relation to other language families. Based on the sample of 60 phrases, 42 phrases were found which show total and partial equivalence, respectively, and the defined concordance between languages was about 80 %. Similar results have been obtained on the sample of 120 phrases. The result did not confirm the hypothesis that English and German as members of the same language family will show far greater similarity in relation to Serbian language because Serbian language shows almost the same concordance with German language as well as the German shows with English language. On the second phraseological sample on which the concordance of German and Serbian language was examined, the different result was obtained- percentage of concordance was 50 %, while all the terms from the Bible showed total equivalence. If phrases, as a multi-dimensional phenomenon, includes not only linguistic, but also cultural, historical and other unique features of a nation, and characterizes a spirit of a language, then from this work, it could be concluded that the spirit of German language in analysed examples is similar to the spirit of Serbian language, respectively, by the percentage of compatibility approximately of 80%. The result is almost the same in the direction English-German and in the direction German- Serbian language.

**Keywords:** *phrases, English, German, Serbian, equivalence.*