N.J Dawood's Translation of the Holy Qur'an
An Evaluative Case Study

By

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Abstract

The main purpose of this study is to evaluate N.J. Dawood’s translation of the Holy Qur’an, The Holy Book of Islam. Dawood’s version was chosen because of its popularity in the West since it was republished for more than fifteen times since it was first published in 1965 in Britain by the reputable publishing company - Penguin Classics.

The study handled the translation from three main perspectives: 1. Form 2. Comments, Explanations, & References 3. Translation of the meanings of the Holy Qur’an that are considered a clear violation of the Holy Qur’an and the image of Islam. The Quranic form was completely damaged in Dawood’s version. The chapter of Form also discussed the briefed biography that Dawood
wrote about Prophet Muhammad, the introduction of the version, which contains false allegations about the Holy Qur'an, the renaming of suras, the reordering of suras, the mixing of verses, and the omission of verses. In addition to that, the footnoting system that Dawood followed in his version was examined carefully and thoroughly. The study tried to show some of Dawood's biases in his translation; in addition to the Anti-Islamic references he used and the unjustifiable comparison he conducted between The Holy Qur'an and the Bible. Moreover, the research covered the sabotage that Dawood did to the meanings of the Quranic verses by changing the original meaning completely, limiting the meaning of the Quranic terms, or adding to the Holy verses extra meanings that are not found in the original Arabic text.
It was concluded that Dawood handled the Holy Qur'an with the least amount of respect by reordering the locations of the holy suras through placing long suras at the end of the version and starting with short and rhymed ones. He also messed with the verses by addition, omission, delaying, forwarding and mixing the holy verses.