

An Introduction to the BTTS-Kumarajiva Translation Platform

佛經翻譯委員會鳩摩羅什翻譯平臺簡介

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In 2022, after the pandemic, Dharma Master Jin Yong came to the Gold Coast Dharma Realm and assigned our tech team a task to assist in maintaining the *Avatamsaka Sutra* translation website. What began as a simple technical job—reviewing the existing Google Site, updating content, and adding a vocabulary section—ultimately gave us insight into the translation team's needs and workflows.

While Google Docs is convenient in many ways as a cloud-based, real-time collaboration tool with stable version control and free accessibility, it remains file-based rather than database-driven. Isolated files make cross-project referencing difficult, and the lack of an integrated glossary makes it unsuitable for large-scale translation projects. These challenges led us to consider building a dedicated platform to better serve Buddhist text translation needs.

The platform separates preparatory work from translation, allowing Sanghans to focus on core translation tasks. Like dividing a kitchen into front (cooking) and back (prep) areas: the front kitchen is where master translators work with references, tools and team support, while the back kitchen involves volunteers and technicians handling vocabulary organization, material preparation, formatting and platform maintenance. This saves the Sanghans' time while enabling broader participation in this sacred work.

Inspired by this concept, the BTTS-Kumarajiva Platform was born—a customized database system for Buddhist text translation. With guidance from several Dharma Masters, we developed the platform's three core pillars: translation workspace, glossary database, and AI assistance system.

The workspace simulates bilingual discussion workflows, supports role-based collaboration, and organizes reference

2022年，疫情過後，近永法師來到澳洲金岸法界，交給我們技術團隊一個任務，協助維護《華嚴經》翻譯網站。原本只是一個小小的技術任務——審查原有的谷歌網站、更新內容、並新增詞彙區塊，但通過這個項目，我們對翻譯團隊的需求與工作流程有了更深入的理解。

雖然谷歌文件在許多方面都非常便利，它作為一個基於雲端、支持實時協作、版本控制穩定且免費使用的工具，確實幫助了不少工作；但它畢竟仍然是基於文件而非數據庫。各文件彼此獨立，導致跨項目參考困難，也缺乏整合的詞彙庫，不適合比較大的翻譯項目。這些挑戰促使我們思考：是否可以建構一個專屬平台，更好地服務於佛經翻譯的需求？

這個平台將準備工作和翻譯工作分開，讓法師們能專注於翻譯核心任務。就像廚房中將前廚烹飪區與後廚備料區分開，前廚是主譯法師們在參考文獻、工具與團隊支持下進行翻譯的地方；後廚則由志工與技術人員負責詞彙整理、資料準備、格式調整與平台維護。這樣一方面節省法師時間，提升效率，另一方面也讓更多人有機會參與這一神聖的工作。

在這樣的理念啟發下，佛經翻譯委員會鳩摩羅什平台應運而生。這個平台是一個為佛經翻譯量身打造的整合式數據庫系統。在多位法師的指導和反饋下，我們不斷嘗試與調整，逐步建構出平台的三大核心支柱：翻譯工作區、詞彙庫、與AI輔助系統。

materials for easy access. The glossary records translation discussions, building a shared, evolving terminology database. The AI assistant, trained on this glossary, offers translation suggestions, grammar checks and consistency analysis.

The platform enables multi-level collaboration. All project data resides in a unified database rather than scattered documents, making past work easily retrievable. Professional translators and support teams can focus on their specialties while centralized glossary collaboration facilitates discussion. Multiple projects share one database, enabling cross-project teamwork. Most importantly, it preserves senior masters' wisdom—recording the reasoning behind each translation choice helps future translators build on this foundation.

Although setting up platform projects requires more initial effort than using Google Docs—data must be cleaned, organized and imported—this investment yields greater benefits for large or multiple translation projects in the medium-to-long term.

This project taught us two things: first, Sutra translation is very important; second, while not everyone can be a translator, everyone can contribute to translation work. Like cooking—you need both master chefs and kitchen hands. Even someone like me without translation experience can assist with data preparing. The platform's collaborative structure enables broader participation in this Buddhist text translation endeavor.

As Venerable Master Hua said, “Personal cultivation is important—realizing the Way helps Buddhism greatly, but temporarily. Translating sutras into all languages to plant Dharma seeds in hearts—that's eternal.”

We welcome all interested in Buddhist translation to explore better ways to support Dharma Masters in translating sutras worldwide. Amitabha. ❀

翻譯工作區模擬了雙語討論的翻譯流程，支持基於角色分工的協作，預先整理好所有相關參考資料，方便團隊查閱。詞彙庫則記錄翻譯用語討論，建構一個共享且不斷演化的術語資料庫。AI助手依據詞彙庫訓練，可提供翻譯建議、語法檢查與一致性分析等功能。

在平台上，協作發生於多個層面。所有項目數據皆儲存在統一數據庫中，而非散落在各個文檔裏，這使得回溯與整理過往成果更為容易，效率也隨之提升。專業譯者與支持團隊可以各司其職，而詞彙協作亦集中於平台之上，便於討論與整合。多個翻譯項目共用同一個數據庫，使得跨項目、跨團隊的合作成為可能。最重要的是，這個平台可以保存前輩法師們的智慧。每一個翻譯用詞背後的思考與抉擇，都可以被記錄下來，幫助後來者避免重複過去的錯誤，得以站在巨人的肩膀上繼續前行。

雖然設立一個平台項目所需的前期工作比起直接使用谷歌文件要多，資料必須先清洗、整理，再導入數據庫中，才能確保系統順暢運作。但這項投入在面對大型翻譯項目或多個翻譯項目時，中長期的優勢會更加明顯。

通過這個項目，我們體會到兩件事：其一，佛經翻譯極其重要；其二，不是每個人都能成為翻譯家，但每個人都可以參與到翻譯這項工作中來。翻譯就像做飯——你需要主廚，也需要砍柴挑水的人。即使像我這樣沒有翻譯經驗的普通人，也能幫忙洗菜備料、支援後勤。通過平台分工，能讓更多人共同參與這項佛經翻譯的事業中來。

正如宣公上人所說：「我們每個人的自修非常重要，若能修得證果成道，那對佛教當然有大幫助，可是那只是一時的；如果我們能將佛經都翻譯成各國的語言、文字，把佛法播送到每個人的心裏，這才是永遠的。」

我們歡迎所有對佛經翻譯有興趣的人，一起探索如何更好地支持法師們將佛經都翻譯成各國的語言文字。阿彌陀佛。 ❀

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