

創世記 2 章 25 節冒頭の *wāw* の扱いについて

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ABSTRACT Haruki HIRATSUKA, “The *wāw* at the Beginning of Genesis 2:25: Issues in Interpretation and Translation.” How should the *wāw* at the beginning of Genesis 2:25 be translated? While several Japanese versions leave it untranslated, the New Japanese Bible 2017 (*Shinkaiyaku* 2017) begins with *sonotoki* (“at that time”). English versions vary between “and,” “now,” or no conjunction. These differences reflect divergent interpretations of the position of verse 25 within its context.

In this study, I critically evaluate Turner-Smith’s argument that verse 25 serves as a prologue to the subsequent narrative. Her argument is based on structural and lexical correspondences between 2:25 and 3:7 and the *wayyiqtol/(we)x-qatal* verb pattern linking 2:25 and 3:1. Through textual analysis, I demonstrate that her argument lacks persuasive force and that 2:25 should be regarded as discourse closure, referring to the complete state of God’s creation of man and woman.

Finally, after evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of using Japanese expressions *sonotoki* or *kōshite* (“in this way”) for rendering the Hebrew *wāw* at the beginning of 2:25, I tentatively propose leaving it untranslated in Japanese while rendering the initial *wāw* of 3:1 with *sate* (“now”).