

Interpretation (Dana)

Interpretation, as properly defined, is *the effort of one mind to follow the thought processes of another mind by means of symbols which we call language*. These symbols of thought may be written or spoken. They are employed as the medium through which one mind seeks to communicate to another the progress of its thinking. The effort of the other mind to receive this communication of thought is interpretation. So any effort of one mind to understand the thought of another mind is interpretation, whether the manner of expression be written or spoken.

(Excerpt from *Searching the Scriptures: A Handbook of New Testament Hermeneutics* by H. E. Dana, Kansas City, Kansas, The Central Seminary Press, 1951 [1946], 12)