

A Synoptic Problem Glossary

Synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark and Luke have a great deal of material in common; they can be ‘seen together’ - and so are known as the Synoptic Gospels.

Synoptic Problem – There was direct copying between Matthew, Mark and Luke – but who copied whom? The answer has implications for the study of the historical Jesus and the very earliest days of the Jesus movement.

Markan Priority – That Mark was the first Gospel written is a well-established idea and provides the foundation for most solutions to the Synoptic Problem.

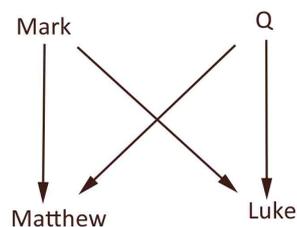
Triple Tradition – material common to Mark, Luke and Matthew (about 8,000 words).

Double Tradition – material common to Luke and Matthew (about 4,500 words).

Q – Denotes a hypothetical source supposedly shared by Matthew and Luke (Quelle = Source). According to Streeter (the 2DH), this source roughly equates to the Double Tradition. ‘Q’ may also be used, less specifically, to denote a source or sources used by both Matthew and Luke.

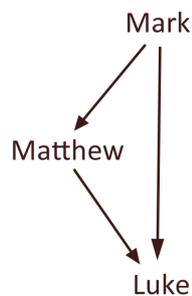
Tatian’s *Diatessaron* – This Gospel harmony, in which Tatian combined Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John into a single narrative, was created around AD 172.

The Two Document Hypothesis (2DH) – The most widely accepted explanation for the Synoptic relationships. BH Streeter published the seminal expression of this theory (also known as the Four Document Hypothesis) in 1924. Leading contemporary advocates include John Kloppenborg and Alan Kirk.



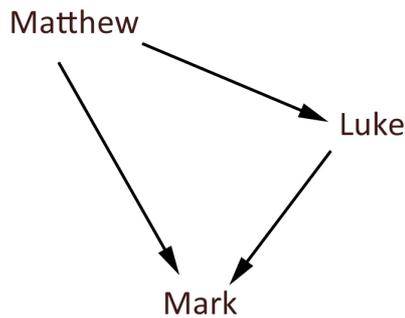
The Two Document Hypothesis (2DH)

The Farrer Hypothesis (FH) – In recent years the main challenger to the dominant 2DH. The leading contemporary advocates are Mark Goodacre and Francis Watson.



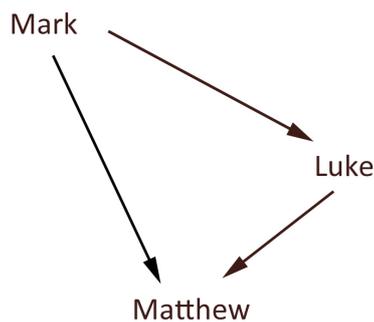
The Farrer Hypothesis [FH]

The Griesbach Hypothesis (GH) – Also known as the Two Gospels Hypothesis (2GH). The leading advocate was the late William Farmer. This hypothesis has no currently active supporters.

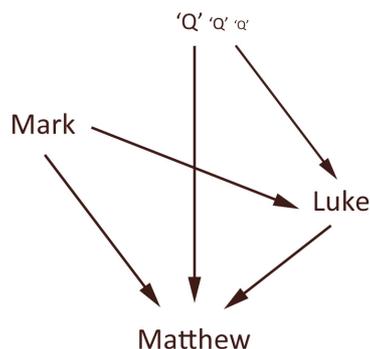


The Griesbach Hypothesis (GH)

The Matthean Posteriority Hypothesis (MPH) and **The Matthew Conflator Hypothesis (MCH)** – until recently the possibility that Matthew used Luke was almost completely ignored. Since 2015, however, it has been enjoying increasing attention. These closely related theories are advocated by Robert K MacEwen and Alan Garrow respectively.



The Matthean Posteriority Hypothesis (MPH)



The Matthew Conflator Hypothesis (MCH)