

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.

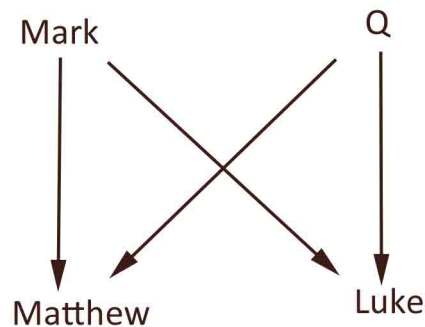
Markan Priority – That Mark was the first Gospel written is a well-established idea and provides the foundation for most solutions to the Synoptic Problem.

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

Double Tradition – material common to Luke and Matthew (about 4,000 words).

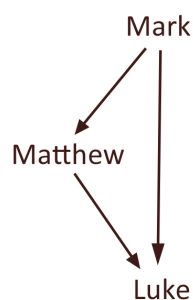
Q – Denotes a hypothetical source supposedly shared by Matthew and Luke (Quelle = Source). According to the 2DH (see below) this source roughly equates to the Double Tradition. ‘Q’ may also be used, less specifically, to denote a source or sources used by both Matthew and Luke.

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 Christopher Tuckett.



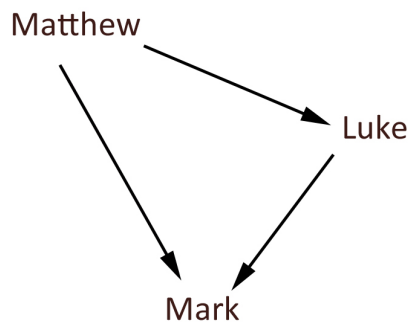
The Two Document Hypothesis (2DH)

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



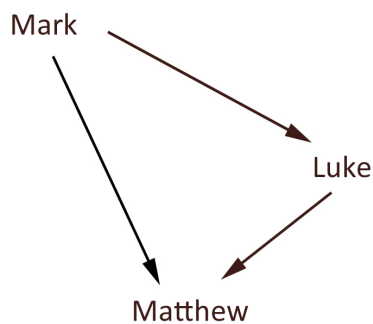
The Farrer Hypothesis [FH]

The Griesbach Hypothesis (GH) – Also known as the Two Gospels Hypothesis. The leading advocate was the late William Farmer. Currently supported by a handful of scholars.



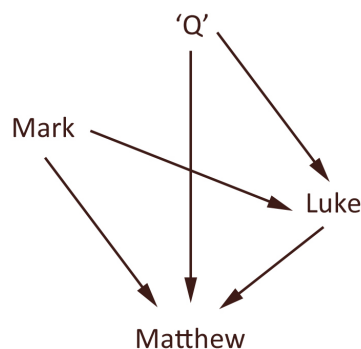
The Griesbach Hypothesis (GH)

The Matthean Posteriority Hypothesis (MPH) – The poor relation of the ‘simple’ hypotheses, the MPH has been receiving increased attention in recent years. The leading contemporary advocates are Ronald Huggins and Robert MacEwen. Currently supported by a handful of scholars.



The Matthean Posteriority Hypothesis (MPH)

The Matthew Conflator Hypothesis (MCH) – A variant of the MPH which allows a place for ‘Q’ – (a source or sources used by both Matthew and Luke, but which does not equate to the Double Tradition). The late Martin Hengel supported the theoretical viability of this type of arrangement. Currently supported by Alan Garrow.



The Matthew Conflator Hypothesis (MCH)