Chapter 13: Software Tools for Translating

> **Objective**: Participants will have a general understanding of the software tools available for various ways of translating and a clear understanding of the best tool for different language communities to use.
>
> **Core Concepts:**
> - Wycliffe Associates offers free software tools for translation.
> - The translation team should choose a program that will easily produce the community's desired translation format.
> - BTT Writer, Autographa, and V-MAST are programs designed for written translation.
> - BTT Recorder and Orature are programs designed for oral translation.

So [Joseph] gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities; he laid up in every city the food of the fields which surrounded them (Gen. 41:48).

Intro:
In this session we want to show you some of the software that Wycliffe Associates offers to help teams translate and preserve their work.

Many software options exist, but Wycliffe Associates is committed to providing free software with free resources for translators to use in checking their translation. Another important aspect of using Wycliffe Associates software is that all data can be freely uploaded to Wycliffe Associates Content Servers (WACS) for storage, use, and revision.

Several software options exist and are available for download at bibleineverylanguage.org.

Time: 30 minutes, plus 30 minutes demonstration
Workbook p. 55
Materials:
✓ White board
✓ internet access for showing bibleineverylanguage.org
✓ Slide Deck T3.Slides_13_ Software.Tools.for. Translating
✓ Bible with place markers

Teacher's Notes:

Software Tools for Translating

So [Joseph] gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities; he laid up in every city the food of the fields which surrounded them (Gen. 41:48).

All Scripture is taken from the New King James Version®. © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Show bibleineverylanguage.org and demonstrate where to download these. Be sure to familiarize yourself with these programs on BIEL ahead of time so that this goes smoothly.

bibleineverylanguage.org

Bible In Every Language

Remember that it is the local church who decides which translation format to use:

- a written translation that people can read using an accepted writing system for their language community, or
- an oral translation that people can listen to using an MP3 player or smart phone.

Remember that each language group knows best what is right for their own community. We want to show you what we offer for free, but leaders for each language group are the best ones to decide what to use, because they know their own people.

*Discuss (if Chapter 12 has not been done yet):*

- o **Have you talked about whether you will have an oral or a written translation?**
- o **How many people in your community read and write?**
- o **How will those who do not read or write be able to hear the Scriptures in your language, once your translation is complete?**

If a written translation is best for the community, there are three software options we offer. Each provides a different set of advantages.

BTTWriter is good if a tablet or computer is available for translators to use. Not every translator has to have a computer for this option: translators can do all their work with pen and paper and then have a typist who will be responsible for entering their text into BTTWriter.
A benefit of BTTWriter is that translation resources for use during the MAST checking steps are embedded in the program, so no internet access is necessary to use those resources.

Autographa is a simple and intuitive program for teams who have low computer literacy. However, none of the checking resources are available within the program.

Notes:
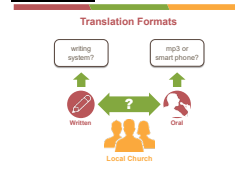
Encourage participants to tell you what they are thinking, and what decisions they have made. If you have already had these discussions in Chapter 12, you can shorten or skip this discussion.

If participants already know what format they want their Bible published in, focus only on the tools that fit the team's desired end-product.

Notes:

V-MAST allows translators to continue working together virtually. However, it requires a computer and a good internet connection for each translator, because they must work in V-MAST online. This program provides direct access to online checking resources.

Discuss:
Think about these three options and about whether one of them would work well for your community.
Do you have any questions?

If an oral translation is best for the community, or if there is a need to record a translation that is already written, we offer two options.

BTT Recorder is a recording software that allows people with no literacy or low levels of literacy to create an oral translation of the Bible. This program is designed to serve people with little or no computer skills.

Orature is designed to allow for audio recordings of current written translations. It was also developed to serve as a platform for creating oral translations. Orature includes audio source files.

Discuss:
Think about these two options and about whether one of them would work well for your community.

When you think about your language community, which of these tools might best serve your needs?
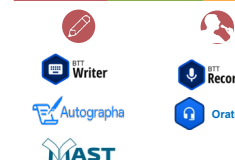
Allow time for participants to discuss options and ask questions.

Things to consider include:
- Are there laptop computers or tablets available?
- Is there access to good internet connections?
- Are people in your community used to using computers?

Remind participants that WA provides 2 laptops or pre-programmed keyboards for our church partners who are engaging in a COBT project.

Now that you have considered these things about your language community, do you have a good idea about which program to choose?
- o What benefits do you see for using that specific program?
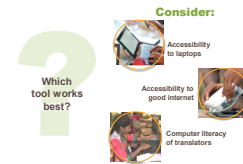- o What challenges might you face using that program?

Psalm 102:18 says, "Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord."

Your Bible translation is not just for today; it is for future generations to know and praise the Lord. We want to help everyone to use the right tools, so they will be able not only to serve their own local church, but also to preserve the Scriptures for future generations. These software tools are designed with that purpose in mind.

Choosing the right translation tool for your team is essential for two primary reasons:
- **The right tool will support the format you have chosen for your translation.**
- **Using the correct tool leads to preservation of the translation for future publishing.**

If you are training a translation or leadership team who will all be involved with typing, uploading, or printing, take time to demonstrate these processes in the program they have chosen.

Confirm:
Participants understand that Wycliffe Associates offers several specific tools with unique advantages. They understand the tools available and have ideas about which tool best fits their team's translation format and accessibility plan.