

Video Script Chapter 6: Release Early, Revise Often

Video 6.1

We're going to talk about when the translation is ready to be shared with the language community.

We encourage our partners to release early and revise often.

During our training, you'll work on a **Quality Assessment Guide**, to outline quality standards for your translation. You want your translation to meet those standards before it's released, but no translation will ever be perfect.

Take a moment to think about what you would answer if someone asked you when a translation should be shared with the language community waiting for it.

Martin Luther was one of the first people to translate the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into a common language: his language was German. He published portions of his German translation and looked for feedback from the community to improve his next publication of it.

Today, translations usually have small groups of people who review and offer updates to the translation. These groups decide when to release revised editions.

The idea of releasing the translation early and revising it often means:

Translators release their translation when they believe they have made it the best they can at the time. You don't need to wait until you've finished a whole book of the Bible.

Let's read Ecclesiastes 11:2 and 4:

Give a serving to seven, and also to eight,
For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.
He who observes the wind will not sow,
And he who regards the clouds will not reap.

These verses talk both about being generous and about doing things now, because we do not know what the future holds. If the sower waits for perfect weather, he will never sow. In the same way, if translators wait to release their work until it's perfect, a translation will never be distributed.

Video 6.2

As the translation is used, the translators will get feedback for corrections, improvements, and updates. You'll need to determine when and how to make those changes and release the work again. Keep in mind that language changes over time, making revisions necessary.

If there are different denominations within the language group, the translation team may want to form a group of people from each denomination. This group can receive feedback and determine how often to make updates. By planning ahead, they won't be surprised and overwhelmed when changes need to be made.