Video Script Chapter 13: Software Tools for Translating

Video 13.1

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.

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.

Video 13.2

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.

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.

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Video 13.3

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.

Video 13.4

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.**