

COBT Modules 1 and 2 Exercises

COBT – 4 Beliefs – Exercise

Authority: God's Spirit provides wisdom and endows each believer with authority for stewarding God's Word in his sphere of influence.

Ability: The local believers of a language community understand their language and culture better than an outsider; typically, at least some are multilingual so have a certain skill in transfer messages across language media. Additionally, the knowledge of more than one language without having to spend years learning it sets them up to begin translating right away.

Responsibility: The local believers have a responsibility to their community that others outside the community do not have for evangelism and discipleship. Scripture translation into the heart language of the people is an essential part of that responsibility.

Accountability: the local believers are accountable to one another and to God for the accuracy, clarity and accessibility of Scripture in their heart language.

Consider the following scenarios and determine which of the beliefs above drives the behavior

1. When a young woman on the translation team arrived at the training event, she felt unqualified for translation. But as she learned the process and worked with her team, she realized God had uniquely prepared her. She not only understood the source language better than some on her team, she had also learned to type while at college. Additionally, she was a great communicator and was comfortable in English and the trade language as well as her mother tongue and back.
2. The leaders of a translation project asked the school teacher to help them with their checking efforts because he was respected for his knowledge of their mother tongue. He loved words and researching meaning. The leaders trusted him to help them find the best words when they were confused.

3. A group of leaders from several language communities came together to be trained in specific checking tools. These leaders translated the resources into their trade language, so they could take it back to the community and use it in further checking.
4. A pastor provided his church as a place for translators to meet. People from the church volunteered to cook meals for the translators on days they gathered to work on the translation.
5. The translation team split up the remaining portions of the New Testament to work on from home. They set a schedule to gather for checking every couple weeks.
6. A Christian leader from the community mentors eight pastors who are part of the team to translate Scripture into their mother tongue.
7. A pastor whose church is home to 3 minority dialects with no scripture, seeks a way to help them get Scripture. At first he thinks he can only find help from the outside. But what he longs for is help to equip himself and them to manage the task themselves. He decides to host a training event and invites a group from each language to learn specific skills in Bible translation. This pastor plans and manages the event and helps guide the translators for each language.
8. A Muslim man allowed his wife to attend a translation training event for their language, as long as she took him with her. He was not interested in the gospel, but he was interested in preserving their heart language. The leaders of the event allowed this non-believer to join the training with his wife. During the training, this young man read the Scriptures, heard the gospel, and was saved.

COBT – 6 Behaviors – Exercise

A community of believers who understand and agree with the four beliefs above, will do certain things. Below is a list of six behaviors that stem from the beliefs.

1. Translation into the heart language of the local community is the responsibility of mother-tongue speakers in fellowship with their local church.
2. The local church will manage community accessibility to the translated scripture.
3. Continuing refinement and revision will take place within the community, with mother-tongue Christian speakers.
4. The church will engage the local community in Scripture usage.
5. The local church shares the concept and methodology of Church Owned Bible Translation with other language groups
6. The local church takes ownership of generational revisions and updates to the Scripture.

Consider the following stories. Which behavior is being exhibited?

1. A group of believers invites other Christians to their home once a month for a time to read the newly translated Scriptures in their mother tongue and talk about what they have read.

2. The pastor of a community who has led the translation team, worked with two other pastors from outside the language community to help fund the publication of the completed New Testament.
3. A group of mother-tongue translators reached out to BT organization to ask for help with checking their work. They wanted to check it themselves, but asked for guidance in what things to look for and support with resources.
4. A young woman who joined the translation team for her community said she did so because of her grandfather. Her desire was for him and his older generation to be able to read Scripture for themselves, because they did not speak or read the trade language (or English) well enough to read Scripture. She wants people of older generations and present generations and future generations to have access to God's word in the language of their heart.
5. A pastor who is also the chief of a prominent tribe helped get a translation started with the church from his wife's language group. He then traveled to the north of his country meet with a Bishop from another tribe and invite them to partner in learning about Bible translation.

COBT – Exercise Answer Keys

4 Beliefs Module

1. Ability
2. Authority
3. Accountability/Responsibility
4. Responsibility
5. Accountability/Responsibility
6. Authority
7. Responsibility
8. Authority

6 Behaviors Module

1. – 4
2. – 2
3. – 3
4. – 6
5. – 5