

## 07 Quality Assessment – Walkthrough

### M.A.S.T.—Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation

*\*This module could, and probably should, be broken into two sessions when training leaders new to translation. A break between Exercises 1 and 2 is recommended.*

*(Quality Assessment Guide, Quality Assessment Guide Chart, Quality Assessment Exercise 2 handout, and slides are available for this module – 60 min. discussion; 60 min. exercise 1; 30 min. exercise 2)*

**Ask:** What kind of translation did you come here to work on?

**Intro:** Everyone we work with tells us they are dedicated to creating a quality Bible translation. We all agree that quality assurance is important when translating God's Word. One useful tool we've found to help ensure a translation meets the community standard is a Quality Assessment Guide. Let's talk a little bit about what this assessment is and how you can build one to ensure quality in the completed work.

**Ask:** When a local language community has translated Scripture using the MAST process, is it ready to be used? Is that translation complete or should someone else check it and approve its quality?

**Historical Example:** Explain that often Scripture checking has traditionally relied on how an expert thinks about the translation, even though different experts might think differently. In that model, the standard for a quality translation is subject to the professional consultant's view.

**Ask:** Can you think of any problems with this method?

The checking person might not know the language so couldn't suggest words  
They might not be someone with authority to other believers in your community  
They probably won't know the culture  
It could take a long time to get an expert to come to your tiny village

**Explain:** Wycliffe Associates does not view itself as the owner of the translation in any language. Therefore, requiring an external professional to check the work is outside the scope of our organization's responsibility. **We believe the local church owns the translation and they are the best positioned to affirm both quality and naturalness in their heart language.** (Matthew 28:19–20)

- It is our desire to help translators have an agreed-upon standard to use when measuring the quality of Scripture.
- **Globally accepted qualities will provide a starting point for a quality assurance guide.**

**Ask:**

- If you were a pastor of a small church in a minority-language community and one of your members brought you a Bible translated into that language, what would you think of it? How would you know if it was a good translation?
- If you complete a project with MAST and take it to another village and say it is a good translation what might they want to do? The more people you involve in the translation the more likely others are to accept the translation.
- If you use globally accepted standards to check the translation, you will be confident to share it with others and let them know you have done this checking.

**What is a Quality Assessment Guide?**

- o This Guide is simply a list of **Qualities—and we like to start with the globally accepted ones—with definitions that will help you ask the right questions to check your translation.**
- o When created, this guide will provide the translation team with an objective standard they are all committed to upholding as they translate and check Scripture.
- o The qualities we are looking for are related to the content of the translation, not the process or production. For example: “Must be published with a green cover” is not about the content. Those characteristics will be addressed later in the process with a Community Acceptance Plan.

**Ask:** Can you think of a quality you want to be true of your translation? (Most groups come up with accurate or natural. Write their answer on the board or worksheet. Then ask them to explain/define their quality.)

*(You may either continue to Exercise 1 as a group, or break into smaller groups for them to build a guide following this pattern.)*

**Exercise 1: Build the Guide**

*(led by trainer; use Quality Assessment Guide)*

Explain that there are globally accepted standards that translators, consultants, and other organizations all over the world use to uphold quality in Scripture translation. Sometimes these standards are talked about without being clearly defined or directly applied to translation. This exercise will help us to understand the globally accepted standards, and how to check the translation to make sure those qualities are upheld.

- Use white board, easel, or groups at table—DO NOT distribute list UNTIL you’ve completed the exercise.
- Go quality by quality through the list. For each one, ask the group how they would define it. Guide them to understand the definition given. Share the bullet points as reinforcement of these definitions.
- Once the group has fully discussed these qualities, ask if they can think of any others they want to add. Discussion of any they add.
- When they seem confident with the list, share the Quality Assessment Chart

## **Exercise 2: Practice Using the Guide**

- Use Quality Assessment Exercise 2 handout. Students will need access to Matthew 1:18–25 in the ULB.
- **Instructions:** Compare this passage to the ULB and use your Quality Assessment Guide to check for any errors. When you are confident you have caught the errors, you may go to the next page to check your work.

*(Note: The passage below is a copy of the Quality Assessment Exercise 2—it has intentional errors for the trainees to find.)*

## **Matthew 1:18–25 Sample Draft for Checking**

18 The birth of Jesus Christ happened in the following way. His mother, Marry, was engaged to marry Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant by the Spirit.

19 But Joseph, her husband, was a meritorious man and did not want to publicly disgrace her, so he intended to divorce her quietly.

20 As he thought about these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joe son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, because the one who is conceived in her is conceived by the Holy Spirit.

21 She will bear a child, and you will call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

22 Now all this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the lord through the prophet, saying,

23 "Behold, the virgin will become pregnant and will bear a son, and they will call his name Immanuel."

24 Joseph up from his sleep arose and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and he took her as his wife.

25 But he did not know her until she gave birth to a son in Bethlehem. Then he called his name Jesus.

*(Following is the passage with the mistakes highlighted.)*

### **Trainer Answers for Quality Assessment Exercise 2**

#### **Matthew 1:18–25**

18 The birth of Jesus Christ happened in the following way. His mother, **Marry**, was engaged to marry Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant by the **(Holy is missing from the text)** Spirit.

19 But Joseph, her husband, was a **meritorious** (this is not simple, common language; the word “righteous” would also be more faithful because it does not communicate **earned favor with God**) man and did not want to publicly disgrace her, so he intended to divorce her quietly.

20 As he thought about these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “**Joe (not an historically accurate name of Joseph)** son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, because the one who is conceived in her is conceived by the Holy Spirit.

21 She will bear a **child (son is more specific than child)**, and you will call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

22 Now all this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the **lord (L should be capitalized)** through the prophet, saying,

23 “Behold, the virgin will become pregnant and will bear a son, and they will call his name Immanuel”**—which being translated is “God with us.” (this phrase is missing)**

24 Joseph **up from his sleep arose (does not sound like a native English speaker)** and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and he took her as his wife.

25 But he did not know her until she gave birth to a son **in Bethlehem (extra information that should be deleted)**. Then he called his name Jesus.

#### **Ask:**

- Did your quality assessment catch these errors?
- Which quality/questions helped you to catch these errors?

**Confirm:** The leaders can guide translation teams toward a completed Quality Assessment Guide. They know how to use the Guide to check their translation as they work.