

# Chapter 15: Refinement and Revision

**Objective:** Participants will understand how to use the Reviewers' Guide and other resources to include a wider audience in refining the quality of the translation.

**Core Concepts:**

- After the 8 steps of MAST, translators should invite all believers in the heart language community to use and give feedback on the translation.
- Refinement is the process of making the translation even better before it is officially published.
- Revision involves periodic updates on the translation to reflect changes in the language.
- Wycliffe Associates has created a series of Reviewers' Guides to assist with these processes.

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;  
teach a just man, and he will increase in learning  
(Prov. 9:9).

**Intro:**

After translators have completed the eight steps of MAST, they have a working translation that is ready to be used, **AND** they should look for feedback on that translation from other Christians in their heart language community.

Let's talk about some ways to invite the community to ensure the quality of the Scriptures. Their role is to use the translation, provide feedback, and make suggestions for refinement.

**Refinement is the process of making something that is already good even better.** Once the translation team has carefully followed the checking steps, they can be confident that they have a good translation; **refinement is the next step— making what is good even better.**

**Discuss:**

Let's read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, and consider how it relates to teamwork.

**Time:** 45 min.

**Workbook p. 61**

**Materials:**

- ✓ Slide Deck: T3.Slides\_15  
\_Refinement.and.Revision
- ✓ Bible with place markers
- ✓ Internet access and  
[bibleineverylanguage.org](http://bibleineverylanguage.org)

**If internet access is not available:**

- ✓ PDF download or printout of the Reviewers' Guide for Luke (17:11-19 is on pp. 151-152).
- ✓ Slide Deck: T3.Slides\_15a  
\_Accessing.Reviewers.  
Guide

**Teacher's Notes:**



**Refinement and Revision Resources**  
will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning (Prov. 9:9)

After the 8 Steps of MAST



**Refinement:**  
a process that includes other Christians from the language community

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

Two are better than one,  
Because they have a good reward for their labor.  
If for they fall, one will lift up his companion.  
But woe to him who is alone when he falls,  
For he has no one to help him up.

<sup>11</sup> Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm;

But how can one be warm alone?

<sup>12</sup> Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him.  
And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

- **Why would be helpful to include others?**
  - New eyes might see things others have missed.
  - It provides an opportunity for others to affirm the work of the translation team, which helps lead to broader acceptance in the community.
  - It may help cross denominational boundaries.
  - It may help spread the word about the new translation.

- **How could you include the community in refinement?**

Remember that the Quality Assessment Guide is a useful tool in refinement. The QAG guides the community in what to look for as they review the translation. Wycliffe Associates has also developed other resources to help include the greater community in the process of refinement.

**One of those resources is called the Reviewers' Guide. This guide is available on [bibleineverylanguage.org](http://bibleineverylanguage.org). It asks questions of readers in the community to confirm understanding.**

The Reviewers' Guide is a collection of documents to help local churches evaluate naturalness and comprehension. It can be used online, downloaded to flash drives, or printed.

It is not comprehensive, but it does cover passages in every book, including some of the most difficult ones to understand. This will give translators and their community members assurance that the hardest parts are clear and complete.

**Reviewers should read the Users' Manual before proceeding to any of the other guides.**

**Let's practice together.**

Here are a few simple steps for using the Reviewers' Guide.

- A translator or other Christian leader should guide the review.
- The leader should remind those who are participating that the questions are not to test their memory but to check the completeness and clarity of the content.

## Notes:



**Possible answer:**  
*Community revision may identify ways to increase understanding for all ages and education levels in the community.*



Demonstrate on [bibleineverylanguage.org](http://bibleineverylanguage.org) how to access the Reviewers' Guide (RG), OR use T3.Slides \_15a\_Accessing.Reviewers.Guide. If training in an area with little or no WIFI, take downloads or printed copies of the RG to show your participants.

Show online or hand out the RG section for Luke 17:11-19 (pp. 151-152).

*Remind participants that including others in refinement has multiple purposes:*  
*- affirming the quality of the translation with new eyes on it*

Participants may look back at the Scripture (or ask to hear it again) when asked questions.

- The leader should read the background information before reading the passage of Scripture. (If the check is of a written translation, all the participants should have copies of the Scripture, if possible.)
- The summary question is intended to get most of the information about the passage. The specific questions are designed to bring out the details.
- If something is missing, comments should be made on the guide itself and this should be shared with the translation team. NOTHING should be changed in the Scripture by the reviewers.

We will practice with Luke 17:11-19.

**Revision of the Bible translation** takes place some years after the initial completion and printing or audio production of the translation.

## Why are Bible translations revised?

God's Word does not change, but languages and word meanings do change over time. Revisions can be made:

- To correct typographical and grammatical errors.
- To express the meaning of scripture in a way that is more accurate to the original text.
- To ensure that doctrine is accurately communicated.
- To include changes when there have been changes in the way the language is spoken.

Other resources will also soon be available for refinement and revision. A Greek Words for Translators and Commentary for the New Testament will be available soon.

## Discuss:

- **How is the refinement process part of quality assurance? What about revision?**
- **What do you think the response would be from Christians in your community who are asked to help with refinement or revision of the translation?**

## Confirm:

Participants should understand that getting feedback from a wider audience is an important step in refining the translation and expanding its reach. The team should feel confident that resources are available to help them with this.

## Notes, continued:

- encouraging the acceptance of the translation by a wider audience
- giving the community confidence in the quality of the translation

Work through the passage together. If you have a large group, you may want to split them into smaller groups to work through the passage.

**Revision**  
Keeping the Translation Current/  
Generational Ownership

Language changes over time...

- Plan by the church to revise the translation
- When need is identified
- Every 5 years or other

## Refinement Resources



- Translation Topics
- Translation Manual
- Reviewer's Guide
- Greek Words for Translators and Bible Commentary