

## CC BY-SA Training (Open Copyright Licensing)

*Revised 9/17/2021*

### Introduction:

- Today we will explore Copyright Licensing of Heart Language translations
- The copyright license used has major impact on the **accessibility** and ease of **refinement** of the Heart Language translations, 2 of the 6 behaviors that are essential components of effective Church Owned Bible Translation projects.
- This teaching session gives you background to help explain the form (included with the Statement of Faith and Translation Guidelines forms) that translators will sign indicating their agreeing to the CC BY SA copyright agreement for their HL translation.
- We will cover:
  - What are the copyright rules
  - What impact do they have on translation
  - Why we use the license we do and what it allows

First, review the big picture:

### Why do you want to translate Bible?

- For people to have the Word in their HL
- To understand and apply it
- For growth, evangelism, and discipleship
- Ultimately for the glory of God

### To accomplish these goals you need:

- A source text (and of course bilingual translators) that you can easily and legally translate [input]
- Ability to distribute and improve the translation easily and legally [output]

### How does copyright impact the process?

#### Stories:

Tim Jore : A PNG language group approached him several years ago and asked him to help them get their just-completed Heart Language New Testament translation printed. He approached the publisher [of the source text]. They said no to the HL NT being printed because [in their opinion] it belonged to them since the publisher's translation was the source text. The fact that an "all rights reserved" version had been used as source text made it impossible to get the new HL NT printed and distributed.

Tefera, Wycliffe Ethiopia Feb 2021: Shared the account of a large language group who completed a NT translation and assigned the all-rights-reserved copyright to one of the Bible Societies in exchange for the Bible Society covering the cost of printing. Ten years later the language group wanted to revise it because there were areas they wanted to improve and they wanted to print more because the original printing was sold out. But the Bible society did not allow it. They didn't want any changes or have more printed at that time. And since the Bible society owned the copyright, the group couldn't revise and improve the text or even reprint the current version.

1. **What is copyright? [Go to PowerPoint presentation]**

(based on information from The Christian Commons by Tim Jore)

- If you create a document, music, picture, etc., anything that is put into fixed form, you own the copyright
- Copyright protection happens automatically when the work is created. You do not need to register the copyright
- If you own it, copyright "**All Rights Reserved**" grants you exclusive rights to the work
- These rights include copying & redistributing the work, creating derivatives (including translations) of the work, publicly performing, or displaying the work, or publishing to the web, using on social media, or sharing on mobile phones.
- Others must get permission (usually as a license) to use what someone else owns. This can be difficult, expensive, or occasionally impossible to obtain.
- Copyright law is similar around the world. By default, no one can legally do things with someone else's content for many decades after the owner's death (examples: 60 years after death in India, 70 US, 99 Cote d'Ivoire) unless they get a license from the owner's heirs to do so.

2. **What difference does it make?**

- a. **You can't just pick up any Bible (NIV, NBS, ESV) and begin translating without permission**
  - i. Getting permission can be difficult, time-consuming and costly
  - ii. It is tempting to use source material illegally
- b. **Use of translated material is also restricted**
  - i. The creator of the translation has the right to say who can share, reuse, or translate their creation.
  - ii. Everyone must come to them to get permission to copy, share, adapt

Copyright is not bad. It protects the creators of content. It reserves the right to say how content can be used. And it automatically exists.

Wycliffe Associates wants to see source text easily available, used legally, and translations easily shared and refined.

**So how do we turn the barricade of copyright license into an open door?**

WA uses Creative Commons Licensing (Licensing started 2002. and now covers over 2 billion works)

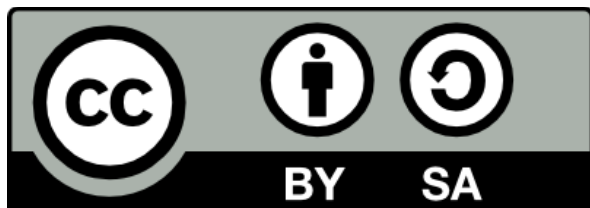
- Allows others to share, remix, and translate source text without having to get permission or pay a licensing fee
- This licensing prevents others from taking the translated work and restricting the right to copy, adapt or distribute it

Many other organizations are using this. Biblica, owners of the NIV, released an Arabic translation under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license. It makes it easy for other Arabic translations to be done based on this text. The Open Bible website lists many others that are open licensed.

From CreativeCommons.org: Creative Commons licenses give everyone from individual creators to large institutions a standardized way to grant the public permission to use their creative work under copyright law. From the re-user's perspective, the presence of a Creative Commons license on a copyrighted work answers the question, "*What can I do with this work?*"

#### Elements of the license


(Six variations are available; WA chose CC BY-SA)




Creative Commons      Attribution      Share Alike

This license allows re-users to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, so long as attribution is given to the creator. The license allows for commercial use. But if you remix, adapt, or build upon the material, you must license the modified material under the same open license.

CC BY-SA includes the following elements:

BY  – Credit must be given to the creator (If using the PowerPoint, stop here and use this slide as an example. At top has Marv Lucas' name and at bottom displays link to Google and Creative Commons site link)

SA  – Adaptations must be shared under the same terms

WA provides source text Unlocked Literal Bible (English is adaptation of 1901 ASV now in public domain) under this license. Most GL versions are under this license. *[A few, e.g., French, Burmese, are public domain texts]*

- **Anyone** can use the ULB as source text, no fee, no permission. You don't have to partner with WA, don't have to use MAST—it's online and available if terms of the license are followed.
- Derivatives (translations) **must** be released under the same license.

Translations based on ULB must be released under same license, and the team of translators/church/language community will hold the CC copyright

## Pause for Questions

Possible questions: These questions and possible answers are provided as a resource for the trainer. One does not need to address all of the issues if they don't come up.

Can translations be sold?

- Yes, commercial use is permitted.

What about cult/bad translations

- Copyright All-Rights-Reserved doesn't stop this. Piracy is common and hard to prosecute.
  - (From Christian Commons) "Copyright restrictions on a discipleship resource may be a deterrent that prevents publishers and other established entities from reproducing and mass-distributing a work (e.g. a book, an evangelistic video, etc.). Copyright law gives the copyright holder the opportunity to take someone to court who violates their rights. But copyright restrictions do not prevent bad things from happening to good content. "Bad guys" will continue to do bad things with good content regardless of whether or not it is under copyright. There is simply no way to patrol what every person in every language of the world is doing with your good content in an effort to prevent bad things from happening to it."
- Though people who do not contract with WA can legally use the WA resources or even the heart language resources to make a translation that says something different, they cannot change the actual text that WA makes available digitally.
- Anyone who uses a CC BY-SA Bible must not imply that the creator of that Bible (WA or others) endorses the translation.

Can people use source texts that are not provided by WA?

- Multiple source texts including the one the translators are most familiar with may be used as a research resource as they translate. They are helpful in checking context and specific meanings. But there is a danger of a restricted source text becoming the primary source of a translation if routinely used.

Can Catholics translate the ULB and add the books (the Apocrypha) that are only in the Catholic Bible? If so, how can they license their whole Bible as CC BY SA?

- They would need to use several versions of those books as source texts for each passage so they do not violate copyright laws by translating from one text.
- Another possibility is to get permission to translate those books from a publisher who holds the copyright and to clearly mark on the copyright page which parts are under that permission and which parts are under CC BY-SA

We worked on a Bible translation with another organization, but the first pages say that the organization or a Bible society holds the copyright. Why don't we hold the copyrights?

- The translators may have signed over their rights.
- The translators may have been paid and their work would have been considered "work for hire".

Translators will sign the release and agreement to license translation under CC BY-SA on the same form with agreeing the translation will be done according to Statement of Faith and following Translation Guidelines

### **Review/Teach Back**

*Why use CC BY-SA?*

*What does it allow you to do?*

*Who can publish, print, copy, distribute?*

Wycliffe Associate's website Bible in Every Language (BIEL) developed by WA as a resource for Bible translators will furnish much more information. <https://bibleineverylanguage.org/translations/?lang=en>

Scroll down to the bottom right of the home page for a link to the human-readable summary of the copyright license. It is a valuable summary review of the above discussion. Also, under Resources, you will find a section on Open Copyright Licensing on page 5 of the Conversations.

As you explore BIEL you will encounter diverse resources and tools which will aid training translators and the process of translation. Under Tools, BTT writer is designed for a written translation with reference tools and uploading strategy to digitize and upload a translation in process. Under Translations, there are Open Copyright source texts in major languages free to download and use. Explore there to find the language and source text for your translation project. Then go to a particular text and click on notes and words to explore detailed helps. After you have started your translation, if you have finished a book and have done the best you can and are happy with the translation and are ready to share it with the world, there is a process to upload it and list it on BIEL Translations page so it is available anywhere in the world. That way you don't have to wait until you have finished the whole New Testament or Bible but can share portions as you finish them. Also, it is easy to post updated versions to keep current with language changes or further text refinements.

So from input of legal open source text to output of text with freedom of publishing in diverse forms and making refinements, CC open copyright licensing is foundational.