Video Script Chapter 22: Why MAST Works

Video 22.1

In this session, we are going to talk about how the MAST process was designed based on some specific ways God created the human mind to work.
We discuss six ways in which our brain works.

First, we'll talk about a concept called The Cone of Experience.

God has created us in such a way that, the more kinds of interactions we have with information, the more we learn and can use that information.

In Deuteronomy 17:18–19, we see God's commands for a godly king to learn His law: he must not only write down his own copy of God's words, but also read them often and then act on them. This allowed him to **learn** in the best way. We learn different amounts of information, based on different interactions with it.

In Bible translation, before a draft is created, the three steps of Consume, Verbalize, and Chunk help the translator remember 70-90% of the information in the passage. The translator is then able to create a Blind Draft with the fewest errors possible.

Video 22.2

Although both of these pictures *make sense*, they carry different amounts of meaning to different people, depending on each person's experience, personality, past learning, perception, or preference.

In the first step of MAST, Consume, the translator is taking in a passage that makes sense. When the translator then Verbalizes the passage in his/her own language in step 2, the translator is demonstrating that it has meaning to him/her. Step 3, Chunk, also makes the translator think about meaning because it requires looking for natural breaks that *fit* the meaning. These initial steps make the Blind Draft step possible because meaningful information from the Scripture passage is retained.

Video 22.3

Would you be surprised to find out that there are no triangles? So why do we see them?

We immediately look for triangles for two reasons: 1. We were asked to see triangles, so we try hard to do so, and sometimes we see them even in places where the whole image of a triangle does not appear. 2. We know from previous knowledge what triangles are and can recognize the suggestion of them in this image.

Our minds apply previously learned information to new information to make it meaningful. This is called *connecting the dots*.

Video Script Chapter 22: Why MAST Works

When translators are creating their Blind Drafts, sometimes they "connect the dots" and translate based on their own understanding of the passage or on things they know from other passages of Scripture. The checking steps help translators see places where they have connected the dots— where they have added information or made assumptions that cannot be supported by that Scripture. This is one reason that Step 6, Peer-edit, is so important: a second translator may see where the blind draft has connections that are not in the passage.

<u>**Next, we'll look at how Short-term and Long-term Memory impact the translation process.**</u>

Our memory has been designed by God to work in a specific way.

Our **short-term memory** can only **hold** information for **5 to 7 minutes** before it replaces that with new information. Then we need to do something with that information, just like we talked about in the Cone of Experience.

The most effective **use** of new information that we take in happens within the next **7 to 10 minutes**. We call this our **working memory**.

If we do something with the new information in those 7 to 10 minutes, that information gets stored in our **long-term memory** so we can use it **later.**

This is why timing is important in the drafting steps!

Consume uses short-term memory, so it should only take **5 to 7 minutes** to read or hear one Scripture passage.

Verbalize and Chunk use working memory, so they should directly follow the Consume step and be complete within **7 to 10 minutes**.

Input/output theory explains this: once a person has received "input," the confirmation of learning comes as they share what they have learned, or "output" their learning.

The **Blind Draft** will be easier if these timeframes are followed. Taking longer may seem to help, but in fact the brain will be dumping information.
Checking steps have no time limit because the passages of Scripture are not only written down, but they have been worked with and are now **stored in long-term memory.**

<u>Video 22.4</u>

The way you most often think may line up with one or the other of these lists.

However, we each think best when we are able to use **both sides of our brains**. This is called **lateralization**. You can imagine this working in the same way as using both sides of the

physical body: although it is possible to get from one place to another by hopping on one leg, if we can use both legs to walk or run, things go much more smoothly.

Because of the advantages of lateralization, the drafting steps are designed to alternate between using strengths on each side of the brain, while the checking steps combine the use of both sides:

> Step 1 – Consume—**left**
> Step 2 – Verbalize—**right**
> Step 3 – Chunk—**left**
> Step 4 – Blind Draft—**right**
> Step 5 – Self-edit—**left**
> Step 7 – Peer-edit—**left** (for someone else)
> Step 7 – Key Word Check—**both**
> Step 8 – Verse-by-Verse Check—**both**

Last, we'll discuss Higher-level Thinking.

This diagram is called *Bloom's Taxonomy*. It shows that learning begins at the lowest level of intaking new information and understanding it. For this new learning to be useful, it must be applied at the higher levels. Let's examine this using a simple example: a pencil.

1. The most basic level is just **remembering** information: **What is it?**
2. Next, we need to **understand**: **What does it do?**
3. Then we **apply** what we know, to think beyond just what we see on the surface: **What else could it be used for?**
4. Next, we can **analyze** our application: **Why would you use a pencil instead of a pen?**
5. We can **evaluate** what we have understood so far: **Does a pencil work for every writing need? Why or why not?**
6. Finally, we can **create** something new, based on all we have learned: **How can you improve the pencil?**

When we apply this to the steps of translation, **Consume** starts at the most basic level. Then we work our way up, applying higher levels of thinking as the steps go on. The **Blind Draft** and the **checking steps** are all performed at the highest levels.