

07 Quality Assessment – Walkthrough

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

(Slide deck; printouts of Quality Assessment Guide Chart and Quality Assessment Exercise 2 for each person – 60–90 min. discussion and Exercise 1; 30 min. Exercise 2)

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

Intro: Translators tell us they are dedicated to creating a quality Bible translation. We all agree that quality assurance is important when translating God’s Word. A useful tool to accomplish this is a Quality Assessment Guide. A Quality Assessment Guide creates a standard the whole team can use to ensure the translation’s quality. Let’s talk a little bit about what this guide is and how you can build one.

Ask: When a local language community has translated Scripture using the 8-Step 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 what an outside expert, or consultant, thinks about the translation, even though different experts might have different views. In that model, the standard for a quality translation is subject to one expert’s view.

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

- *This expert consultant might not know the language so couldn’t suggest words.*
- *The expert might not be someone with authority to other believers in the community.*
- *This outside expert probably won’t know the culture.*
- *It could take a long time to get an outside expert to come to the village.*

Ask: Who will own your translation? Who are the experts in your heart language?

Explain: Wycliffe Associates does not view itself as the owner of the translation in any language. Wycliffe Associates believes instead that the local church owns the translation and the people are the best ones to affirm both quality and naturalness in their heart language. (*Matthew 28:19–20*)

- When they build a Quality Assessment Guide, translators agree on a standard to use when measuring the quality of translated Scripture.
- Globally accepted qualities provide good starting points for a Quality Assessment 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 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, starting with globally accepted ones. Each quality has definitions that will help translators ask the right questions to check the translation.
- o This guide will provide the translation team with an objective standard they are all committed to uphold as they translate and check Scripture.
- o The qualities in a Quality Assessment Guide 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.

Exercise 1: Build the Guide

(led by trainer using the Quality Assessment Guide Chart)

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.)

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 explain 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 the Quality Assessment Guide Chart UNTIL you have completed the exercise. Begin by asking what qualities they can think of.
- Use the Quality Assessment Guide Chart to discuss one quality at a time. Point out how the qualities they thought of are the same as (or similar to) the globally accepted ones. For each quality, ask the group how they would define it. Guide them to understand the definition given. Use the questions to help them understand how to check for each quality.
- Once the group has fully discussed these qualities, ask if they can think of any others they want to add. Discuss any they add.
- When they seem confident with the list, share the Quality Assessment Guide Chart.

Exercise 2: Practice Using the Guide

- Use Quality Assessment Exercise 2.
- 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, discuss with the larger group.
- *(Note to trainer: the exercise and a page with highlighted errors is included at the end of this walkthrough to help you in reviewing the exercise with participants. You do not need to point out all the errors. Instead, use the discussion time to review what they found and to encourage teamwork in finding errors. If there are disagreements about how something should be corrected, encourage them to find consensus.)*

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.

Note to Trainers in Gateway Languages: *To prepare the exercise, use Matthew 1:18-25 in your source language ULB. Paste that passage into a document and insert errors similar to the ones inserted in the English exercise below. Keep track of the errors you inserted on a separate page. DO NOT translate the exercise below, which was created from the English ULB.*

Quality Assessment Exercise 2—Practice using the Guide:

(Read through this passage, comparing the draft to the source text. Use your Quality Assessment Guide to check for errors. When you and others in the group are confident you have caught the errors, the Trainer will guide you through checking your work.)

Matthew 1:18–25 ULB

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

19 But Joseph, her husband, was a righteous 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, “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 son, 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”—which being translated is “God with us.”

24 Joseph got up from his sleep 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. Then he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18–25 Sample Draft

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.

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**.