

Video Script Chapter 15: Refinement and Revision

Video 15.1

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.**

Video 15.2

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. 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. 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.

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Video 15.3

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.