**Transcelerator: Software for Accelerated Translation of Comprehension-Checking Questions**

Conference sub-theme: **Engagement and Impact**

Abstract:

Transcelerator is a new software tool available as a plug-in for Paratext. Translator Mark Penny developed the idea behind this software to speed up the process of preparing comprehension checking questions for the Southern Gondi project. Use of this tool can help translation teams ensure adequate engagement of the language community early enough in the process to collect usable feedback on the clarity and quality of the translated Scriptures.

Transcelerator presents a translator with a list of comprehension questions in English (or potentially any language of wider communication) and allows manual translations of those questions to be entered. As work progresses, Transcelerator uses the growing body of translated questions and previously identified target-language renderings of biblical terms to make statistics-based guesses to fill in drafts of translations for remaining questions. Questions having very similar frames (e.g., “What did *x* say to *y*?”) generally result in “instant” translations of questions with a very high degree of reliability. Users can define rules to improve the initial reliability of the translation of repeated phrases that make up parts of questions. Other rules help in the automatic selection of the best rendering of key terms which have multiple renderings in the target language. When the necessary questions have been translated, Transcelerator can generate a checking script, by retrieving Scripture portions from Paratext and interleaving them with the relevant questions.