# figs-nominaladj

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| **translate\figs-nominaladj\title.md** |

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| **NO** | **ENGLISH** | **TRANSLATION** |
| 1 | Nominal Adjectives |  |

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| **NO** | **ENGLISH** | **TRANSLATION** |
| 1 | How do I translate adjectives that act like nouns? |  |

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| **NO** | **ENGLISH** | **TRANSLATION** |
| 1 | ### Description |  |
| 2 |  |  |
| 3 | In some languages an adjective can be used to refer to a class of things that the adjective describes. When it does, it acts like a noun. For example, the word “rich” is an adjective. Here are two sentences that show that “rich” is an adjective. |  |
| 4 |  |  |
| 5 | > \*\*The rich man\*\* had huge numbers of flocks and herds. (2 Samuel 12:2 ULT) |  |
| 6 |  |  |
| 7 | The adjective “rich” comes before the word “man” and describes “man.” |  |
| 8 |  |  |
| 9 | > \*\*He will not be rich\*\*; his wealth will not last. (Job 15:29a ULT) |  |
| 10 |  |  |
| 11 | The adjective “rich” comes after the verb “be” and describes “He.” |  |
| 12 |  |  |
| 13 | Here is a sentence that shows that “rich” can also function as a noun. |  |
| 14 |  |  |
| 15 | > \*\*The rich\*\* must not give more than the half shekel, and \*\*the poor\*\* must not give less. (Exodus 30:15b ULT) |  |
| 16 |  |  |
| 17 | In Exodus 30:15, the word “rich” acts as a noun in the phrase “the rich,” and it refers to rich people. The word “poor” also acts as a noun and refers to poor people. |  |
| 18 |  |  |
| 19 | ### Reason This Is a Translation Issue |  |
| 20 |  |  |
| 21 | \* Many times in the Bible adjectives are used as nouns to describe a group of people. |  |
| 22 | \* Some languages do not use adjectives in this way. |  |
| 23 | \* Readers of these languages may think that the text is talking about one particular person when it is really talking about the group of people whom the adjective describes. |  |
| 24 |  |  |
| 25 | ### Examples From the Bible |  |
| 26 |  |  |
| 27 | > The scepter of wickedness must not rule in the land of \*\*the righteous\*\*. (Psalms 125:3a ULT) |  |
| 28 |  |  |
| 29 | “The righteous” here are people who are righteous, not one particular righteous person. |  |
| 30 |  |  |
| 31 | > Blessed are \*\*the meek\*\*. (Matthew 5:5a ULT) |  |
| 32 |  |  |
| 33 | “The meek” here are all people who are meek, not one particular meek person. |  |
| 34 |  |  |
| 35 | ### Translation Strategies |  |
| 36 |  |  |
| 37 | If your language uses adjectives as nouns to refer to a class of people, consider using the adjectives in this way. If it would sound strange, or if the meaning would be unclear or wrong, here is another option: |  |
| 38 |  |  |
| 39 | (1) Use the adjective with a plural form of the noun that the adjective describes. |  |
| 40 |  |  |
| 41 | ### Examples of Translation Strategies Applied |  |
| 42 |  |  |
| 43 | (1) Use the adjective with a plural form of the noun that the adjective describes. |  |
| 44 |  |  |
| 45 | > The scepter of wickedness must not rule in the land of \*\*the righteous\*\*. (Psalms 125:3a ULT) |  |
| 46 | > > The scepter of wickedness must not rule in the land of \*\*righteous people\*\*. |  |
| 47 |  |  |
| 48 | > Blessed are \*\*the meek\*\*. (Matthew 5:5a ULT) |  |
| 49 | > > Blessed are \*\*people who are meek\*\*. |  |
| 50 |  |  |