

## Topic 3 – The 8 Steps of MAST

### Session 1

J – Welcome back to Wycliffe Associates' Bible Translation Educator series! This is Session 1 of Topic 3, The 8 Steps of MAST.

T – The 8 Steps of MAST, *Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation*, are designed to help translators produce a quality, meaning based translation. If the process is carefully applied, the message will be conveyed in natural language the way the speakers will understand.

J - It is essential to be consistent with the steps, because translators who are not will end up with a lower quality translation. We all want God's Word in our heart language to be accurate and to communicate God's message clearly. Following the eight steps of MAST will help to make sure that that is the result. The next few sessions explain the MAST process for a written translation.

T - Let's start by reviewing the first four steps, called **the drafting steps**. As a translator, I am sure you remember well the first time you learned these steps. They may have seemed too simple. Or they may have seemed overwhelming. Remember that feeling as you prepare to share these steps with someone else. This will help you to answer their questions and identify with their concerns.

J- Step one is **consume**—to read the passage in the source text thoughtfully, pay attention to the flow and main points. The source text you should use and train others to use is the ULB available on [Bibleineverylanguage.org](http://Bibleineverylanguage.org).

T - This is an open source translation of the Bible that is available in multiple “gateway” or trade languages of the world. Using it means anything you translate will be copyright free. It's also easily accessible. This step should only take 5 to 7 minutes.

J - Step two is **verbalize**— In this step the translators tell someone in their mother tongue what they just read. The goal here is not to repeat the passage word-for-word, but to retell it in summary form, including as much detail as you can remember.

T - The person listening to the summary should not interrupt or ask questions while the passage is being related, but may comment when the retelling is done. This should only take 2 to 3 minutes.

J - The third step is **chunk**. In this step, you look at the source text and break it into workable pieces. Think about what you can remember, what goes together naturally, and break the text into those pieces.

T - Step four is the last of the drafting steps, **the blind draft**. This is where translators close the source text and draft a chunk from memory. You may remember feeling tempted to look back at the text during this step, or being so concerned about making a mistake, you were unable to move on at this point.

J – Many translators experience this during the blind draft. When you first tried this, did you try to draft while looking? If so, did you notice that this caused you to have a harder time writing a natural translation?

T – Or, like most translators, did you find that, once you pushed past those fears, you were surprised by how much you remembered?

J - As you teach these steps to a new translator, encourage them by sharing your own experience with these steps. Reassure them that the editing steps will give them plenty of chances to fix and add anything they missed during the blind draft.

T – You may also want to remind them that the best way to understand how these steps work is to try them, like you have.

J- When translators are done with these four steps, they will have a draft of a few verses—one chunk. We can then repeat step four on each chunk of a whole chapter.

T – Once this is done, the team will be ready to check the work they’ve just drafted using the four checking steps of MAST.

J – Join us again for our next session when we discuss these checking steps and how to help others understand them.

T - Our prayer is that you will be a blessing to others seeking to understand these drafting steps. Between sessions, make a note of any questions you may have and relay them to your mentor, or email us directly at [TS@WycliffeAssociates.org](mailto:TS@WycliffeAssociates.org).

J – We’ll talk to you again shortly in Session 2 of The 8 Steps of MAST.