

E2T and BEN

Easy
2 / to
Translate

Our assignment (we're in this together, ya know...) is to develop Bible translation tools and resources that will enable Jane Jungle Villager, or Joe Desert Herdsman to translate the Bible into their own language for their own people even though they have no Bible translation organization to sponsor, train, equip and guide them. Tall order! But with Yahweh as our 'ezer' (indispensable helper), we are making good progress. The Story and Honey Bee apps are key elements (like car chassis and engines), but E2T and BEN are the oil and gas "go juice" that make the engines run. They work together.

E2T is the Bible resource text that translators will translate from. E2T is a Bible version that is "unpacked". There are many things in Hebrew, Greek and English grammar, terminology and culture that make it difficult for local translators to understand in order to transfer the meaning into their own language and culture. By "unpacking" the biblical text, we reduce those translation barriers.

For example, we love to use passives in English. (We use them so much, sometimes it is difficult to recognize them!) "It was given to him." "A fire was built." "We are loved." Yeah, what's so hard about understanding that? Well, the grammar for many languages does not allow passive constructions; they must state who the actor is, even if the actor is generic due to focus or emphasis. "Somebody gave it to him." "The islanders built a fire." "Jesus loves us."

Brief
Exegetical
Notes

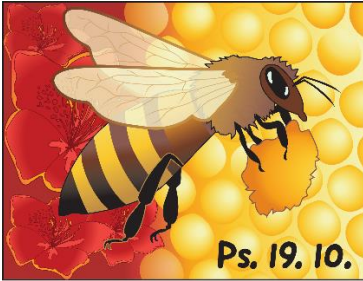
Another example, English (and Hebrew and Greek) use many "of" phrases. Besides sometimes being ambiguous (making the meaning uncertain) many languages do not have an equivalent word for "of". This is a problem for many translators. So, in the E2T version, we want to unpack the meaning. Sometimes it's easy to simply substitute "of" with another preposition, but sometimes we must use different words or even give multiple possible meanings. (This is partly how a BEN is expressed.)

"of" phrases	Unpacked
The demon came out of her.	The demon came out from her.
All the inhabitants of the province heard the word of the Lord.	All the people who lived in that province heard the message about the Lord. OR ... the Lord's word
the lecture hall of Tyrannus	the building where Tyrannus taught OR the lecture hall that Tyrannus owned. OR the teaching room that Tyrannus rented out.
the revelation of Jesus Christ	the revelation about Jesus Christ OR the revelation that Jesus Messiah gave

One more example about what is challenging for translators that E2T and BEN try to unpack or simplify: figurative language! Every language uses figures of speech, but those figures are rarely the same and they rarely have the same meaning even if they do happen to cross language boundaries. Here, you have a try at unpacking the meaning for what these figures and idioms that we use in English:

Figures of Speech	Unpacked	Brief Exegetical Note
Paul has turned the world upside down with his teaching	(idiom; hyperbole) Paul has disturbed so many people in so many cities with his teaching	
"take heart and eat something to regain your strength"	(idiom) "be encouraged/take courage and eat some food to regain your strength"	
"all the world worships our great goddess Artemis"	(hyperbole) "practically everybody worships our great goddess Artemis"	
fear fell upon them all	(ouch! Hope nobody got hurt! personification) they all became afraid/very fearful	
he shook the dust from his feet and said, "Your blood be on your own heads..."	(cultural behavior; idiom) he shook the dust from his feet to show that he would no longer try to persuade them and said, "I am not responsible/guilty if you perish; you yourselves are responsible..."	Jews would shake the dust off their feet to show that they were done trying to persuade...

I hope you enjoyed these translation exercises! I wrote a paper which, Lord willing I will present at a large international Bible Translation conference in Thailand later this year. In this paper I explain why we need the Wildfire Bible Translation model (which is made up of the Story app and the Honey Bee app, using the E2T version and BENs). The paper is a little bit technical, and it is written for an audience who has been involved in the Bible translation movement for a while, but I think you might enjoy reading it if you are interested to understand a little more deeply. You can open and read the paper by clicking on this link: [Accessible, Persisting Bible Translation: Faster. Cheaper. Better.](#)



the Honey Bee

Thank you again for supporting and praying for this ministry. There are many people from many different tribal groups around the world whom you and I will never meet until we are all with Jesus, who will say thank you for enabling them to have the sweet Word of God in their own language. It is a miracle (actually, a series of miracles) that we are involved together in developing this “wildfire” Bible translation model. The Lord alone has made this work come into existence, he is sustaining it, and I believe he will bring it to fruition. And, he is using little ole ordinary you and me to make it all happen. That’s amazing to me.

**God’s Word is
sweeter than honey and
more valuable than gold.
Ps. 19.10**

More things for which I would really appreciate your prayers:

1. **This week** I am using zoom to train some 30 Africans plus a few Asians and Americans on the Story app. Pray for steady internet connectivity and fruitful learning.
2. Pray for Larry (on site in Indonesia) and the **Indo1000** work -- efforts to get a new organization established with reliable workers; finding unreached people of peace who will do translation work, and organizing training for them.
3. To further support the discipleship work in Indonesia, I’m planning to **drive down to Houston, TX** to attend an **IMPACT Mission conference end of Feb.** Ask the Lord for divine appointments and **favorable networking** to inform church planting teams about our do-it-yourself Bible Translation resources (i.e. SP and HB apps).
4. **Thank God for his provision of my new Tiny house** which is now located on my Mom’s property. It is dedicated for His work. Pray that it will be a fruitful hub to reach the nations around the world with God’s Word during my sunset years even as I continue to assist my Mom in her sunset years. Most utilities are now hooked up and most basic furnishings are in place. Pray for a smooth and peaceful transition.
5. I need God’s **wisdom** for making a potential **trip to the NW** (perhaps in early April?) to visit family, friends and partners. Ask the Lord to clearly show me his timing and path for this.
6. The **perseverance of Christ** as I continue to do my part of **reviewing E2T + BEN drafts for John** and **adding images and audio to Exodus.**



Thankful for you, your partnership and friendship.

Robin



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