

TUTORIAL
8.2

Bible translation introduction 1

The learners will be exposed to some fundamental principles of Bible translation:

- a) recognizing the tension between philosophical *ideals* and *real* translation practice,
- b) understanding that truly consistent “word-for-word” translation is not possible to achieve,
- c) learning four basic reasons translators set aside the ideal of reflecting the original form.



ACTIVITIES

Bible translation introduction 1

1. Read *One Bible Many Versions: Are All Translations Created Equal?* chapters 3, 4 and 5.
2. Give three examples where a literal Bible version chose a rendering outside of its “ideal” range.
3. Using a concordance, an inter-linear translation and/or a lexicon (or the Hebrew and Greek texts if you can read them), find examples where a Hebrew or Greek word is translated differently in various contexts. Give a brief explanation for each context. Here is an example:

<i>logos</i> (Greek)	
Acts 1:1 (ESV)	logos is translated “ book ” since it refers to the entire book of Acts
Gal 5:14 (HCSB)	logos is translated “ statement ” since it refers to a phrase instead of a word
1 Cor 14:19 (NASB)	logos is translated “ words ” since it refers to single words

- Make charts patterned after the logos chart above for at least three different Hebrew or Greek words, giving three contexts where those words are translated differently

4. See Figure 5.1 (“Adjustment Flowchart”) in chapter 5 of *One Bible, Many Versions*:
- Find five footnotes in a literal English version where the translators acknowledge making an “adjustment.” (Do NOT use footnotes which mark differences between manuscripts.)
 - For each footnote, state the reason(s) for the adjustment: 1) grammar, 2) correct meaning, 3) clarity, 4) naturalness. In some cases, it could be more than one of these reasons. Here is an example:

Mat 1:25 (NASB) *but kept her a virgin

Footnote: * Lit *and was not knowing her*

Reason(s): Clarity and Naturalness

The image shows a yellow rectangular box containing text. At the top, it reads "Mat 1:25 (NASB) *but kept her a virgin". A curved arrow points from the asterisk in this text down to the word "Footnote:" in the line below. The footnote text is "* Lit and was not knowing her". Below the footnote, it says "Reason(s): Clarity and Naturalness".