

Translator Qualifications

1. A translator must be born again.
2. A translator must be called to the ministry of translating.
3. A translator must be walking with God.
4. A translator should be trained in general linguistics.
5. A translator must be trained in theology.
6. A translator should be trained in Greek and Hebrew.
7. A translator must understand the historical and cultural contexts of the Bible.
8. A translator must thoroughly understand the receiving language and culture.
9. A translator must understand the generic and specific meanings of the words of the receiving language.
10. A translator must understand the principles of Bible translation.
11. A translator must learn to use native speakers of the language as his translation assistants. Or, in the case where the translator is a native speaker, he must be willing to work in a team with translation helpers who are not native speakers. Translation helpers, in this case, are individuals who are trained in the source languages and principles of translation work. "They work alongside mother-tongue speakers as part of the project team, training co-workers and contributing expertise in linguistics and exegesis and seeking to facilitate the completion of the project in every way possible. They usually reside in the language area and learn to speak the receptor language." (SIL) This will most likely be a missionary on the field.
12. A translator must have the ability to stick at the job hour after hour and day after day and year after year.
13. A translator must be committed to producing a nearest formal equivalent translation.
14. A translator must be willing to give up ownership of the translation. A translation that is faithfully done to the glory of God belongs to God not to the translator.
15. A translator must be willing for the translation to be revised when the users point out areas where the translation is less than accurate or adequate.
16. The translator must take a team approach rather than attempting to produce a one-man translation. The translator may have only himself and his translation assistants on the field. In some extreme cases, it may be only himself. However, the translator should seek of site help with organizations like Global Bible Translators.

