

WYCLIFFE BIBLE  
WHAT LANGUAGE? ...  
TRANSLATORS

Di Koialie hoto loumale  
ata. Hoto ke louale keu  
toloholisito keu di  
uvumo healeike.

한국말을  
잘  
합니다.

I speak English. It's the  
language I'm most  
comfortable hearing  
and speaking.

Falo Português. É  
a lingua que ouço  
e falo con mais  
facilidas.

Je parle le français. C'est  
ma langue maternelle.  
Je la comprends et  
je la parle.

Yo hablo español. Es  
el idioma que hablo y  
entiendo mejor.

Nafaanra ni yoo. Kre ni  
ndru; a kre ni n loo.

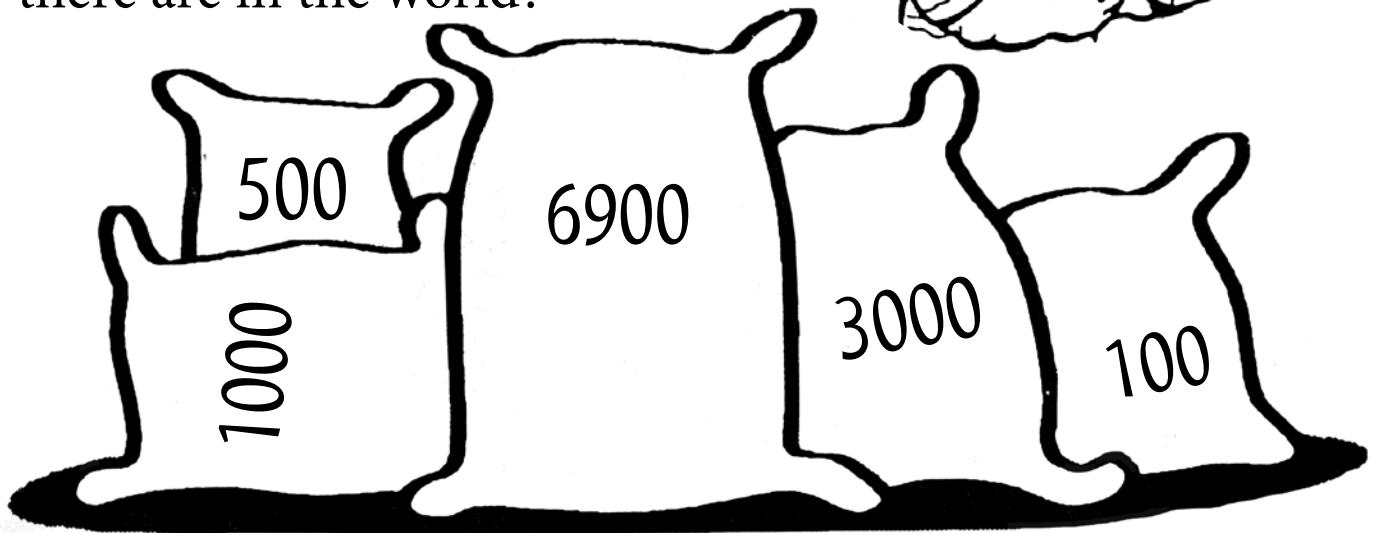
What language did you read on the front of this paper? Your eyes automatically found your language, didn't they?

That's how language is . . . its' automatic when we have normal hearing. As soon as we're born, we hear: "It's a girl!" or "It's a boy!" Of course, we don't understand the actual words, but we immediately begin to hear our parents' language.



By the time we're two or three, we're speaking it ourselves.

How many languages do you think there are in the world?



Answer: There are nearly seven thousand languages spoken in the world.

Does that surprise you?

Now think about this: many of those languages aren't even written! In other words, there are languages in the world that people speak but they've never been written down.





**H**ow can there be languages with no writing?! Well, we automatically learn to speak, but a language needs an alphabet and other things to allow

it to be written. We've had our alphabet for so long we can't imagine other languages without one. But some groups of people have no way to read or write their own language!

You might think, "So what's wrong with not being able to read?" But really think about it for awhile:

How would you read signs?

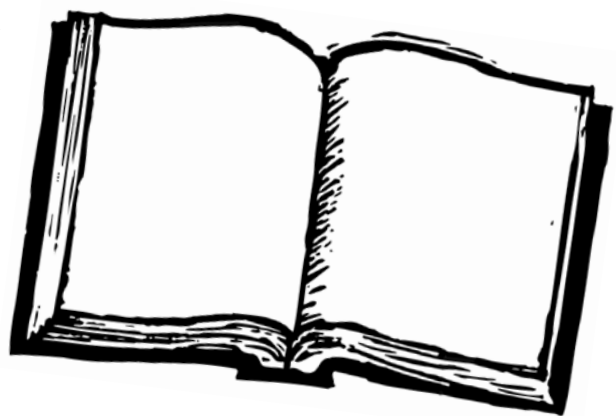
How would your parents read medicine bottles?

How would you know prices?

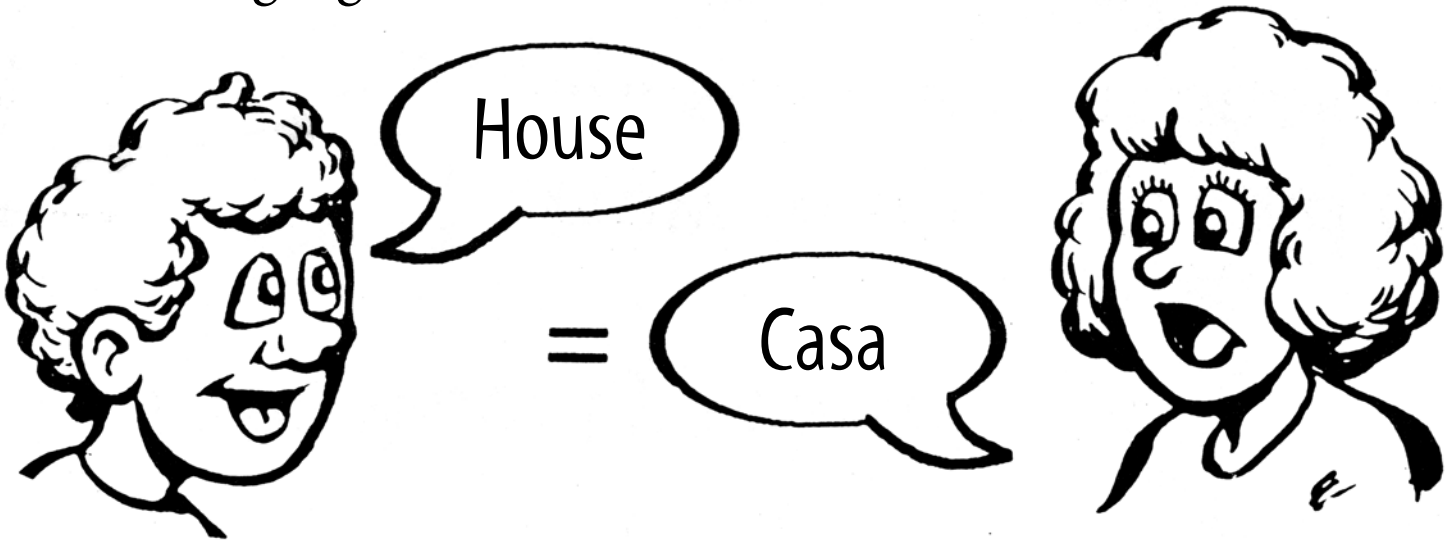
How would you learn?

How would you read the most important book of all—the Bible?

Without the Bible, life would really be miserable! There would be constant problems and not much hope for anything different.



God has said that people from every language will gather around His throne in heaven. Wycliffe Bible Translators believes people need to hear and read God's Good News in their own language. Remember, many groups of people still need a way to read and write their language.



Translation (taking the words and meaning of one language and putting them into another language) is interesting work. Translation is especially challenging when the second language doesn't have any writing.

Wycliffe Bible Translators live with people who speak unwritten languages. They listen carefully, and slowly learn words. Languages have patterns, too. Finding the patterns is a bit like working a challenging puzzle.





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\_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 119:105

Often, translators learn words but discover the words aren't being used with their exact meaning. We do it, too. We say we take Jesus into our heart. Of course, we don't mean our actual heart beating in our body. We mean we have made Jesus the center of our life.

It's very important for translators to use the words with real meaning when they translate God's Word into another language. The English Bible says Jesus is the "bread of life," meaning, He gives us life and strength. The Sepik Iwam people in Papua New Guinea say Jesus is the "sago paste" of life, because that is the main thing they eat.

Look up Isaiah 53:3 in the Old Testament. Write down the words from your Bible that you think were translated like this for the Vagla people in Ghana, West Africa:

- a) "sorrow owner"    b) "eating suffering"



**DID YOU KNOW** some words shoot lightly from your mouth, while others seem to just sit there? Put your hand in front of your mouth. Say "pit." Did you feel the word shoot out? Try it again, only this time say "spit." What happened? Did you feel anything? No. The word just sat there, didn't it? Translators must discover many differences like these.

Answers: a) a man of sorrows b) familiar with suffering

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There are hundreds of Bible translations going on, but about 350 million people still don't have any of God's Word in their own language! A lot of people are needed to get all the translations done.

God asks: "Who will I send? Who will go?" Shade in the dotted areas to see what Isaiah answered in the Old Testament.



*Partners in Bible Translation*

153 Oct. 2010

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