

Sociolinguistics

Module Description

This introduction to Sociolinguistics or “Language in Action” is designed for aspiring Bible translators. The aim is to make the students aware of sociolinguistic factors that will aid or hinder the use of a translated Bible. It is shown that throughout the process of Bible translation considering sociolinguistic issues is important starting from researching the viability of a language, choosing the variety to evaluating the quality of a translation and factors influencing the use of a translated Bible. Key contents includes: “What is Sociolinguistics?”, language varieties, languages in contact, attitudes to language, verbal communication, a sociolinguistic evaluation of translation, and factors influencing the use of a Bible translation.

Objectives

1. To appreciate the importance of sociolinguistic study for Bible translation
2. To understand the factors that shape verbal communication.
3. To understand the factors influence the stability of a language
4. To have an awareness of different styles and registers in the source and the receptor language
5. To be able to evaluate the quality of a translation and apply the criteria for a good translation

References

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Hours

Sociolinguistics is taught over 20 hours and requires 40 hours of self-directed study.