

KUPSAPIINY BIBLE TRANSLATION PROJECT AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

By Patrick Mang'esoy- translation Consultant/Advisor

Background

The New Testament into Kupsapiiny language was translated and released in 1996 by the Bible Society of Uganda. However, the orthography that was used during the translation of this New Testament did not take into account some key features of Kupsapiiny language especially tone and spelling rules plus other important aspects as far as language usage is concerned. This made the printed New Testament very hard to be read.

The Church made a request to the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), who are specialists in alphabet making to come to their rescue.

It was on this note that a social linguistic survey was carried out in all dialect areas of Sebei Sub-region in August, 2010. Thereafter a new orthography which takes into account all the aspects and features of written Kupsapiiny was approved by the Kupsapiiny Language Board and the Kupsapiiny Language Development and Preservation Foundation in August 2011 in Kapchorwa town.

The training of the translators took off immediately at Summer Institute of Linguistics (Entebbe) in collaboration with the Luke Partnership Project.

Five translators, Rev. Moses Salimo, Charicha ABC, Stephen Chekwoti, Francis Chebet and Cheptoek Paul, took an intensive three years training on translation principles, orthography and spelling rules of Kupsapiiny language. They are guided by Iver Larsen (a senior international translation consultant) and Patrick Mang'esoy (a senior translation Advisor).



Stephen Chekwoti, Francis Chebet and Charicha ABC, Rev. Moses Salimo and Cheptoek Paul (translators) at a translation training course in Entebbe. They are being mentored by Patrick Mang'esoy (translation Advisor), and Iver Larsen (an international translation consultant)

In this training, the Gospel of Luke was used in translation exercises. By the time the translators were about to graduate, the Book of Luke was moving towards its completion.

When the translators graduated on January 2014, the Bible Society of Uganda moved in and serious work on translation started and within no time, final proofreading of the Gospel Luke was done and sent for printing in early February 2014.

The dedication

On the 10th of May 2014, the fruits of the three years of hard work on the translation of the Gospel of Luke into Kupsapiiny Language and two other books was realized.

The dedication was attended by delegates from various diversities: the Bible Society of Uganda representatives, the local and regional clergy, guests from Kenya, local leaders, politicians, musicians, dramatists, the brass band, the translation committee, review committee, the translation team and the general public.



The coordinator of the translation project Mr. Francis Chebet reiterated that as we dedicate this book today, the translators are busy working on other books. He asked every stake holder to rally behind the translation team by praying for them and the provision of material support.

The translation consultant/advisor Mr. Patrick Mang'esoy said that every language is unique, that is to say it has its own sound systems and grammatical patterns. Therefore these differences should be reflected in its orthography. He urged the political leaders present to provide maximum support so that this task to be accomplished.

The chairman of the translation support committee Rt. Rev. Augustine Salimo Arap Yona—Bishop of Sebei Diocese welcomed all the guests and asked them to feel at home and enjoy the glorious day of the dedication of the first ever translated portion of the Bible in standard Kupsapiiny orthography.

He said that the composition of the translation support committee comprises mainstream denominations and the Pentecostal churches thus, portraying the unity of the church.



The chief guest was Hon. Dr. Stephen Chebrot who was represented by Hon. Everlyne Tete—woman MP for Kongasis constituency. She pledged their unswerving support to the translation team. She promised that she will provided a computer to the project. Other political leaders included Hon. Lydia Chekwel Barteka—woman MP for Kween constituency and Hon. Philis Chemutai—woman MP for Tingey constituency.



The guest speaker was Rt, Rev. Stephen Kewasis—Bishop of Kitale Diocese—Kenya. He also officiated the dedication of the Gospel of Luke and other two booklets one for grammar and the other for orthography and spelling guide.



Bishop Kewasis stressed on need of unity between different denominations and also with the community that live on the slopes of Mt. Elgon. He said he is looking forward for at a time when all the related communities that live along these slopes will have complete Bibles and move around the mountain singing and dancing for joy!



Mr. Peter Serumaga who represented the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Uganda, emphasized the need to support the work of Bible translation. He challenged the local leaders and the churches to own the project by investing their time, energy and resources. He demonstrated this by asking Isaac Tsubira to sell Bibles in order to collect money to support the work of Bible translation. The local politicians present bought bulks of the Bibles and later distributed to churches and individuals.

