

## Chapter 7

### Conclusion and Recommendations

#### 7.1 Summary of Findings

The goal of this thesis is to test a method of evaluating key translation terms. The results of this approach are outlined in this section. The research questions, hypothesis, objectives, limitations and scope of this study are also revisited. An evaluation of the testing methodology will be provided. The significance of findings will be discussed and suggestions for further research and recommendations will be made.

#### 7.2 Conclusions on Research Questions

A multiple-choice test instrument was proved in this thesis to be productive in evaluating a list of potential key translation terms. A multiple-choice test resulted in a better total set of key translation terms and the test provided the translator(s) with more confidence in currently used terms.

#### 7.3 Conclusions on Hypothesis

The guiding hypothesis of this thesis was that a multiple-choice test instrument would be a systematic, objective and useful approach to evaluating previously selected key translation terms.

The hypothesis was established in that the multiple-choice test instrument led to a total set of key translation terms in which translators have increased confidence. Several currently used key translation terms appeared to fail to adequately convey the meaning of the original to Bisu speakers. In some cases, newly created key translation terms increased comprehension. In others, the new terms provided no improvement.

#### 7.4 Conclusions on Objectives of this Study

The primary aim of the thesis was to test a proposed method for choosing key translation terms. This thesis was divided into two parts. The first part addressed

methods for key translation terms discovery in Bisu. In the second part, these terms were tested using a proposed multiple-choice test. These methods were tested using Bisu, a language of the Tibeto-Burman family, Lolo-Burmese branch, spoken in northern Thailand as well as China, Myanmar and Laos. This method focused particularly on key concepts in the semantic domain of religious terms.

The first part focused on terms discovery and began with worldview interviews focused on the receptor language group's religious beliefs. Other methods for key terms discovery were also reviewed. Next, a word study of these terms using componential analysis was conducted. The usefulness of componential analysis in key terms discovery was also evaluated.

The second part of this thesis evaluated a list of ten potential terms from part one, using a multiple choice test. Ultimately, the aim was to test the usefulness of this method for choosing key translation terms. This test was a pilot test using a relatively small population sample of native speakers. This test included short selected passages from the New Testament in which these terms occur, followed by a question asking the native speaker to define a particular term in the text.

There were two sets of tests. The first test used the key translation terms currently used in these New Testament passages. The second test attempted to integrate knowledge gained from worldview interviews and componential analysis by replacing or modifying term using the same passages as the first test.

Again the overarching goal was to determine whether or not the proposed test is productive. The pilot test was evaluated according to its ability to accomplish its aims. The three aims of the pilot test were to 1) to determine the native speaker's understanding of the terms, 2) to identify potential problems with terms and finally, 3) to determine if replacement or modified terms improved upon the original terms.

## **7.5 Review of Limitations and Scope**

The sources of data in this thesis were limited to two worldview research questionnaires and the results obtained from two different multiple-choice tests which attempted to evaluate these key translation terms. Terms or phrases that could not be obtained from worldview questionnaires or as a result of multiple-choice tests were not evaluated.

This thesis presented a preliminary method for evaluating key translation terms. The method was tested on a limited number of participants. The method also tested only ten key translation terms, not all key translation terms found in the New Testament.

## **7.6 Conclusions on the Significance of Findings**

This thesis further advanced research in techniques used to choose key translation terms by showing that an objective multiple-choice test instrument could be used to evaluate currently used key translation terms. It adapted and built upon previous research in objective methods of testing translations, specifically, that of Stephen H. Doty. Additionally, this thesis contributed to the documentation of the traditional language and religion of the Bisu people.

## **7.7 Further Research and Recommendations**

It is recommended that the multiple-choice test instrument used in this thesis be administered to a larger population sample. Other key translation terms in the New Testament could also be tested using this method. Further research could be conducted to determine if more abstract key translation terms might be tested using this method as effectively as the concrete term used in this thesis.

Certain questions in the test worked better than others. If more than one key term happened to appear in the same passage, then at times, the term not currently being tested seemed to affect the results. For example, if testing of the key term 'angel' is attempted while the key term 'God' is mentioned in the same passage, the subjects understanding of 'angel' is affected by their understanding of the key term 'God'.