The Development of a Translator's Manual for the Canons of Theophany and its Use in a Missionary Setting

A thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree:
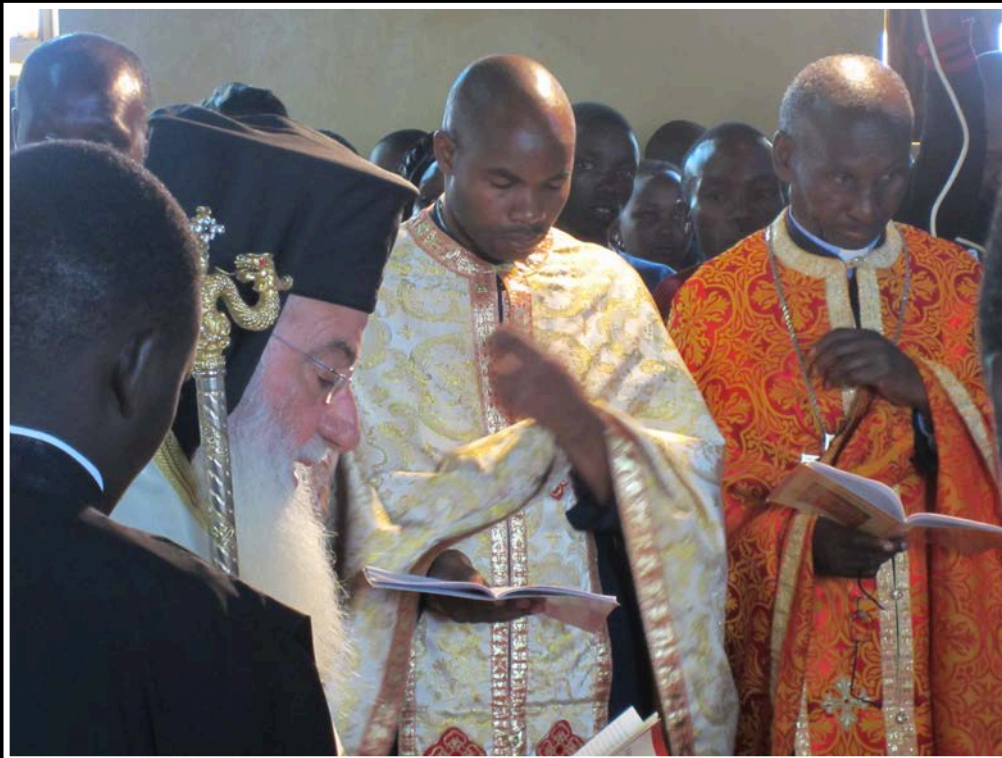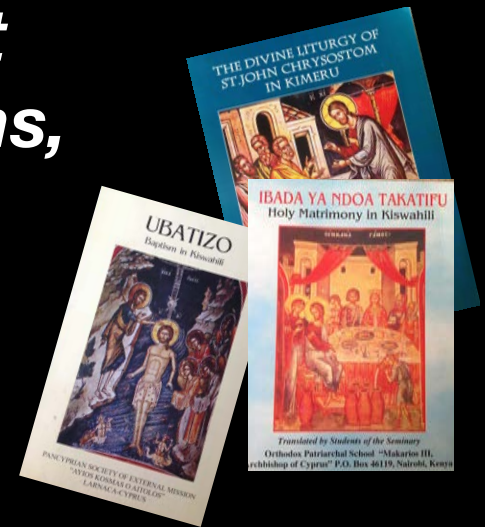
Doctor of Theology

Michael Alvin Colburn
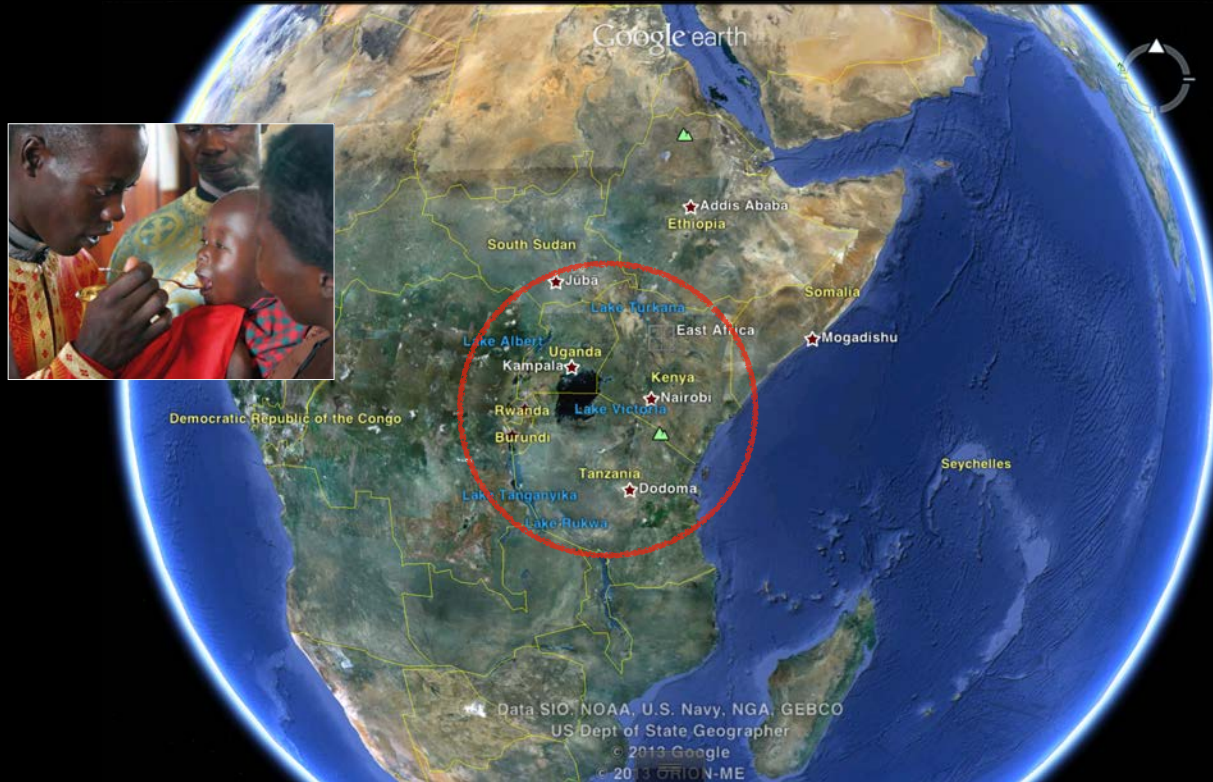**June 4, 2021**

Motivation for the Research

"*Without translations, there is, can be, no Mission.*

His Eminence
Archbishop Makarios
of Kenya

Motivation for the Research

There are
more than
200 languages
spoken
in East Africa

How can
translation errors
be found
and corrected?

Motivation for the Research

Australia

Worked 13 years
as a Bible Translator
in Papua New Guinea

Motivation for the Research

Handbooks for Translators of the Bible from the United Bible Societies

Research Questions

1. *Does the use of a manual for the translation of a Liturgical text improve the quality of a translation?*
2. *Does the use of a Translation for Translators improve the quality of a translation?*

Research Methodology

Created and Tested 5 Handbooks for the Translation of Hymns of Theophany

- *Ode 1*
  - *Canon 1, Heirmos*
- *Ode 9*
  - *Canon 1, Troparia 1 and 2*
  - *Canon 2, Troparia 1 and 2*

Research Methodology

He Uncovered The Bottom of the Deep

The Text and Translations

AGES Topic~Key: he.h.m2~VythouAnekalypse.text

he - Heirmologion (τό Εἱρμολόγιον), h - Heirmoi (Εἱρμοί), m2 - Mode 2 (Ἦχος β')

Source Text

If you know Greek, use this as your source text:

gr_gr_cog	Βυθοῦ ἀνεκάλυψε πυθμένα καὶ διὰ ξηρᾶς οἰκείους ἕλ-κει, ἐν αὐτῷ κατακαλύψας ἀντιπάλους, ὁ κραταιός, ἐν πολέμοις Κύριος, ὅτι δεδόξασται.

Global English Translations

If you do not know Greek, you can use the en_uk_gev as your source text (model):

Structure Oriented (en_uk_gesot)	[He] uncovered [the] bottom of [the] deep, and brings [his] own through dry land, [he who] covered in it [those] opposing, the Lord, powerful in wars: for he has gained honour for himself.
Model (en_uk_gev)	The Lord, who is powerful in wars, uncovered the bottom of the deep sea, and brought His people across its dry land, but there He covered their enemies with its waters. For He has gained honour for Himself!
Meaning Oriented (en_uk_gemot)	The Lord, who is like a great soldier in a battle, exposed the bottom of the deep sea, and he brought his own people across the dry ground at the bottom of the sea; but there He covered their enemies with its water! Sing to the Lord, because He has gained honour for Himself!

Greek source text

English translations

8

Global English Translation

1. *They are translations for translators.*
2. *They were made using only words from the Oxford 3000 list of English words.*
3. *They are for people who speak English as a foreign language and do not have a university degree.*

Research Methodology

Summary of the hymn

He Uncovered The Bottom of the Deep   5

Notes About the Text

Summary

This is the heirmos of the first ode of the Canon that St. Kosmos the Melodist wrote for the feast of Theophany. The writer asks us to remember what God did for the people of Israel long ago. And, he asks us to praise the Lord for what He did. The people of Israel were slaves in Egypt. They were forced to work for the people of Egypt. There was a man named Moses, who was one of the people of Israel. God used Moses to lead His people out of Egypt and take them to another land where they could be free. But when they left Egypt, the army of the people of Egypt followed them, to bring them back to Egypt. The people of Israel were trapped between the army and the Red Sea, which is very deep. God told Moses (Exod 14:4) that people would praise God because of the victory He would win over the leader of the people of Egypt (the Pharaoh). This is how He did it. God divided the water of the sea so that it opened up a path for the people to cross to the other side by walking on the ground that had been under the sea. When the army of Egypt tried to follow the people across to the other side, God closed the waters back up again. In that way, God destroyed the army of Egypt. Afterward, Moses told the people to sing a song to God to give Him praise and to thank Him. He said to them, "Sing to the Lord for He has gained great honour for Himself!". You can read this story in the book of Exodus in chapter 14. The Song of Moses is the first Biblical Ode. You can read it in Exodus 15:1-19.

Research Methodology

Biblical references

References to the Bible

This liturgical text makes the following references to the Bible:

✤ **For he has gained honour for himself** • ὅτι δεδόξασται • SOT: for he has gained honour for himself • MOT: Sing to the Lord, because He has gained honour for Himself! ➡ Exod 15:1 for he is very greatly glorified γὰρ δεδόξασται • Extratextual Reference • This is the first verse of the first ode. The first ode always refers to the first Biblical ode, the Song of Moses, found in Exod 15. The Song of Moses starts with the words, *Let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously he has glorified himself; horse and rider he threw into the sea.* NETS. God glorified Himself by rescuing the people of Israel when He drowned the Egyptian army (*horse and rider he threw into the sea).* The response of the people of Israel was to *sing to the Lord.* The writer of the hymn refers to this with the words *for He has gained honour for Himself.* The writer of the hymn is reminding his readers that we are to sing to the Lord because of His glorious works.

Research Methodology

♣ **their enemies** • ἀντιπάλους • SOT: [those] opposing • MOT: their enemies • MEANING: The Greek word is an adjective and literally means *a person who wrestles against you*, that is *a person who tries to force you down to the ground*. But, here it means an *opposing person*, a person who opposes you and is fighting against you by any way he can. • REFERS TO GROUP ➟ Egyptians: Those who were opposing the people of Israel were the soldiers of the army of Egypt who were chasing them. • ADVICE FOR TRANSLATOR: Based on Osborn and Hatton 1999, three possible translations are *their enemies*, or *those who hated them*, or *those who opposed them*. Although the Greek word is not the same in the Septuagint, see Exod 15:7 in the Bible in your language and look for a word or phrase that means *someone who fights against you*.

Word-by-Word Discussion

Research Methodology

Interlinear Greek Text

Research Methodology

Dependency
Diagram
(Syntax)

Research Methodology

Testing of the Manuals

Kenya

Alaska

S. Korea

Research Methodology

S1 (TFM)
1
T1
4
BT1
7. Identification of errors

S2 (GEV)
2
T2
5
BT2
8. Identification of errors

S3 (Man)
3
T3
6
BT3
9. Identification of errors

T1 Errors

T2 Errors

T3 Errors

10. Pairwise Analysis
(for Hypothesis 1)

11.

Pairwise Analysis
(for Hypothesis 2)
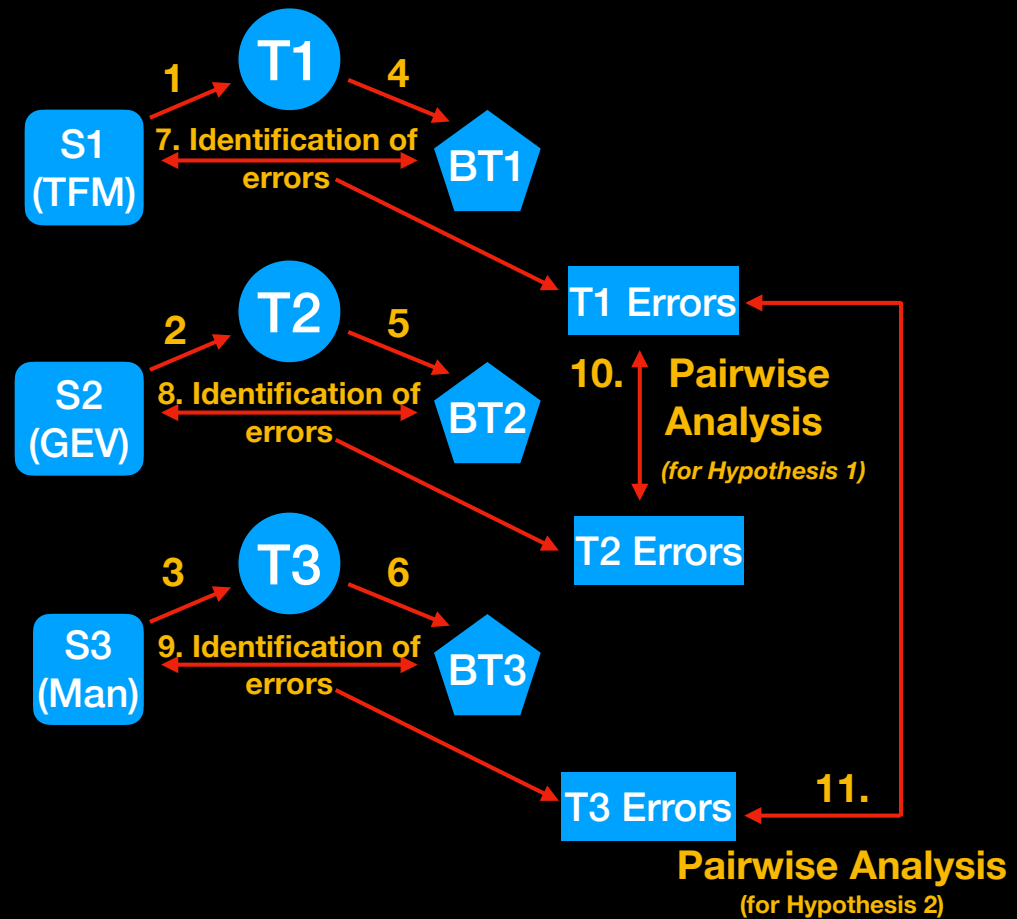
S1 = Source 1
TFM = The Festal Menaion
GEV = Global English Version
Man = Liturgical Translator's Manual
T1 = Translation from S1
BT1 = Back-Translation of T1
T1 Errors = Errors identified in T1

Research Methodology

Source

Translation

Back-Translation

S.1.1 - FTR1: FTN1, BTN1- Kenya - Kikuyu - O9.T1.C1 - TFM as Source

Greek
Δαυῒδ πάρεσο, Πνεύματι τοῖς φωτιζομένοις· Νῦν προσέλθετε, ᾆδε πρὸς Θεόν, ἐν πίστει λέγων φωτίσθητε· οὗτος ὁ πτωχὸς ἐκέκραξεν Ἀδὰμ ἐν πτώσει· καὶ γὰρ αὐτοῦ εἰσήκουσε Κύριος ἐλθών, ῥείθροις τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, φθαρέντα δὲ ἀνεκαίνισεν.

TFM
O David, come in spirit to those who are now to be enlightened and sing: 'Approach ye now to God in faith and receive enlightenment. Fallen Adam, the poor man, cried and the Lord heard him: He has come and in the streams of Jordan He has made him new again, who was sunk in corruption.'

Kikuyu
ũi Daudi uka withiinie wa roho kuri aya ihinda ini riri metereire kugia na umenyo na kuina. Kuhiririani Ngai inyui ihindaini rĩri mwithinie wa witikio na matuike a kwamukira ũmonyo. Adamu muthuri muthini thutha wa kugua ni aririire Ngai na akimuigua: Ni okite na agtuika wa kumutua kiumbe kieru thiini wa jui cia Jorodani we uria worire thiine wa ungumania.

Back-Translation Version 2

Back-Translation Version 1
O David, in spirit come unto these who are waiting to acquire wisdom and sing. Draw closer to God you who are in faith and receive wisdom. Adam, the poor man, after falling called upon God and he heard him: He has come and had made him new in the rivers of Jordan he who was lost to corruption.

Analysis

Penalties & Thresholds

Penalties

Neutral errors	0
Minor errors	1
Major errors	5
Critical errors	10

Analysis

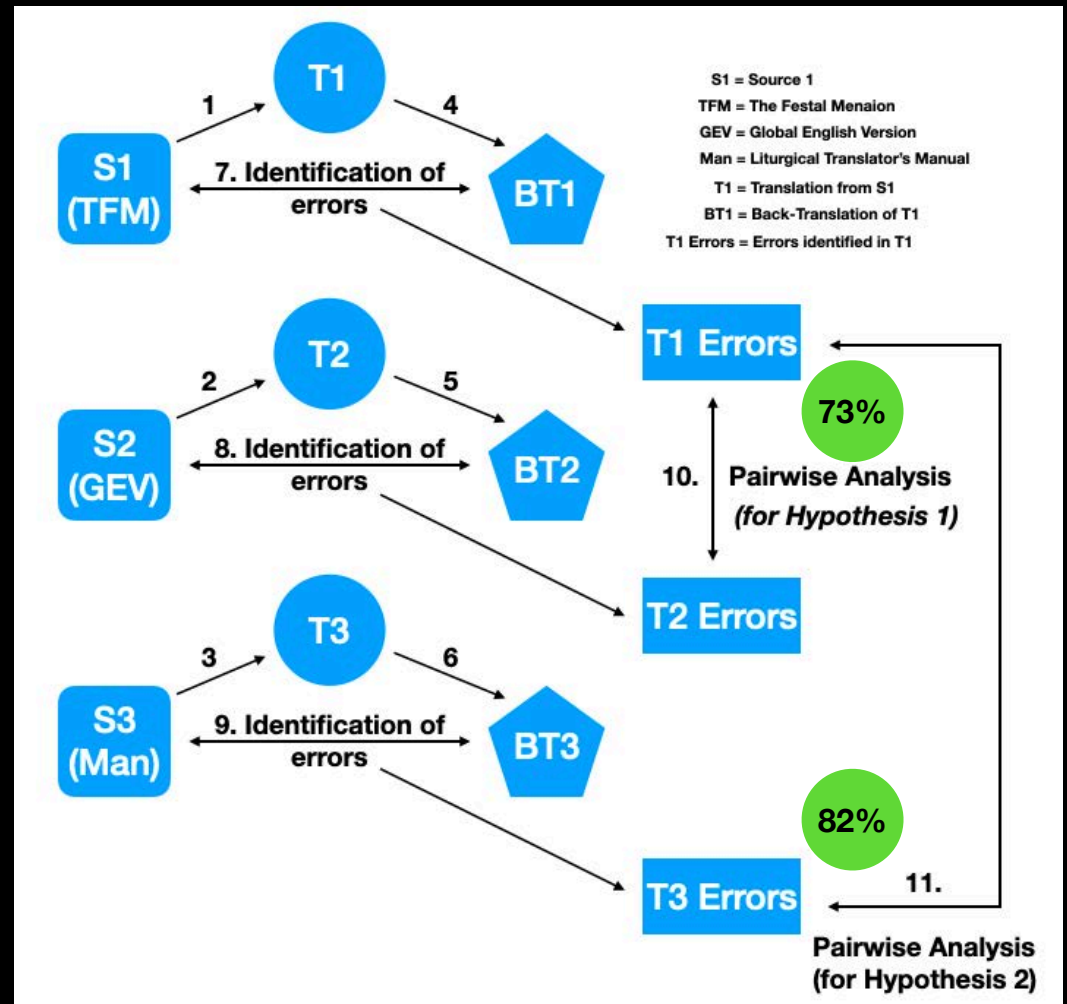|			56 words				3
Error ID	Source	Target	Error Category	Error Subcategory	Severity	Comments	Reported by Consultant?
s.1.1.1		waiting	Accuracy	Addition	Minor		Yes
s.1.1.2	now (to be enlightened)		Accuracy	Omission	Major		No
s.1.1.3	enlightened	acquire wisdom	Accuracy	Mistranslation	Major	enlightenment does impart a form of	No
s.1.1.4	(approach ye) now		Accuracy	Omission	Major		No
s.1.1.5	receive enlightenment	receive wisdom	Accuracy	Mistranslation	Major		No
s.1.1.6	fallen Adam	Adam after falling	Accuracy	Addition	Minor		Yes
s.1.1.7	(made him new) again	(made him new)	Accuracy	Omission	Minor		No
s.1.1.8	Lord	God	Accuracy	Mistranslation	Minor	target has word for God instead of for Lord. Same referent though.	Yes

Analysis

$$PPPW = 24 / 56 = 0.429$$

Job Info							Final Score	0.429
Product Identification	bt-s.1.1							
Text Size	56							

Analysis Criteria	Number of Errors Found	Accepted Errors	Neutral errors	Minor errors	Major errors	Critical errors	Severity Penalty Points
Accuracy	8	8	0	4	4	0	24
Total	8	8	0	4	4	0	24
	0.143	0.143					0.429
	REPW	AEPW					PPPW

Research Results

73% of sets reduced PPPW by use of a **TFT**

82% of sets reduced PPPW by use of **manual**

S1 = Source 1
TFM = The Festal Menaion
GEV = Global English Version
Man = Liturgical Translator's Manual
T1 = Translation from S1
BT1 = Back-Translation of T1
T1 Errors = Errors identified in T1

Research Results

Through use of a manual, PPPW was reduced in **67%** of sets made by individuals **without** a university degree.

n = 6

Through use of a manual, PPPW was reduced in **100%** of sets made by individuals **with** a university degree.

n = 5

Conclusions

1. The use of manuals improves the quality of translations.

2. Successful use depends on personal factors.

3. Use of a Translation for Translators improves quality.

4. Quality assurance methods for Bible translation are helpful for liturgical translation.

Recommendations

1. Translations of the liturgical texts be should made and evaluated using the formal quality assurance methods of Bible translation.

2. Future research should determine which personal factors affect the use of manuals.

3. Manuals should be made for all liturgical texts.

Thank you!