

Idioms Answer Sheet & Information

The goal in Bible translation is to convey God's message in an accurate, natural way. There is a difference between a literal meaning and true meaning. In translating the Bible we want the reader to understand the message God wanted to give, not just give a translation of the words. A literal translation often gives no clue as to the real meaning. Using phrases that are rooted in the culture, that outsiders may not be aware of, make the message more meaningful. Using idioms helps make the translation speak more powerfully to the reader.

We use idioms in our every day speech, without even thinking about it. These phrases are often what make it hard for someone outside our culture to learn our language.

For example: "Nerves of steel"

Our English Bibles use idioms such as:

- ♦ *Their hearts sank.* It means, They were suddenly disappointed. This is how Joseph's brothers reacted when they found the silver cup in Benjamin's sack (Genesis 42:28).
- ♦ *You're out of your mind!* It means, You're insane! It's what the disciples said to Rhoda, the servant girl, when she said she'd seen Peter (Acts 12:15).
- ♦ *Everyone's eyes were fastened on him.* It means, Everyone stared at him intently. This happened when Jesus stood up to read in the synagogue (Luke 4:20).

Yopno Language

The Scriptures are being translated into the Yopno language, located high in the mountains of Morobe Province, by Wycliffe Bible translators, Wes & LeeAnn Reed. They expect to have the New Testament finished and ready for typesetting soon.

1. Jamba but amin

*The literal English translation: **Turning leaf insides person.***

it's meaning:

- A. A person that can't make up their mind
- B. A hypocrite.**
- C. a nervous person

Use in Yopno Scripture:

The above idiom is used in the Yopno translation of Galatians 2:13.

Kandawo Language

Mack and Doris Graham, have been working with the Kandawo people for over 20 years to translate Scriptures for them. The Kandawo people are located in the highlands of PNG and they have long history of fierceness and fighting.

2. kamalen ngujo napupen

*The literal English translation: **Don't think and pull your ears***

Does it mean?

A. To misunderstand

B. Don't worry/be concerned

C. Don't be confused

Use in Kandawo Scripture:

Acts 11:12 The Holy Spirit told me to go with them and **not to worry** about their being Gentiles..

3. kamale todo

*The literal English translation: **he hit his ears***

Does it mean?

A. To be tempted/to persuade someone to do something

B. He forgot something

C. He embarrassed himself or made a fool out of himself

Use in Kandawo Scripture:

Matt 4:1 Then Jesus was led out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit **to be tempted** there by the Devil.

4. kake agle toi

*The literal English translation: **his legs and hands hit***

Does it mean?

A. He stumbled

B. He danced

C. To be very frightened/terrified

Use in Kandawo Scripture:

Mark 5:33 Then the **frightened woman, trembling** at the realization of what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and told him what she had done.

5. une kadjie abi

*The literal English translation: **They held his name***

Does it mean?

A. To defame someone ('s name)/to insult someone

B. He was taken captive

C. They trusted in him

Use in Kandawo Scripture:

Matt 26:65 ..."Blasphemy! Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his **blasphemy**.

6. kunub nopill

*The literal English translation: **they(2) stole and ate***

Does it mean?

A. They (2) conquered

B. They (2) committed adultery

C. They (2) made peace and were no longer enemies

Use in Kandawo Scripture:

Matt 5:28 But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed **adultery** with her in his heart.

Tubetube Language

The Tubetube New Testament was finished and dedicated in 2004 by Alan & Faye Canavan. The Tubetube people are located on smaller islands an 8 hour boat ride off the coast of the main island of PNG. A Tubetube pastor exclaimed after his first time hearing I Timothy read in the Tubetube language, "I have been a minister for many years. I thought I understood most things in the Bible. But today I heard the word of God so clearly that I felt as if I had never heard it before."

7. bwalubwalu uyawana mena kulouyo

*The literal English translation: **may you trip over a lizard's tail***

meaning:

A. may you be humiliated

B. may you find an unexpected blessing

C. put a terrible curse on the hearer

Use in Tubetube Scripture:

Use by Peter in Acts 8:20 as equivalent to : go to hell (you and your money)

8. kategu ipitali

*The literal English translation: **my heart jumped***

meaning:

A. I was very surprised/amazed

B. I was frightened

C. I fell in love

9. gwasawa ipitopito

*The literal English translation: **the emperor fish jumps***

meaning:

A. The sun rises

B. jump to it, get here quick!

C. Lightening bolts in the sky

10. tenam kuyawali

*The literal English translation: **stretch your ear***

meaning:

- A. to talk on and on
- B. incline your ear to me, listen**
- C. to be lied to

Use in Tubetube Scripture:

Used in some Psalms eg Psalm 17:1, 17:6

11. dabwelo isugu

*The literal English translation: **the sun swims***

meaning:

- A. the sun has set**
- B. the sea waters are warming
- C. someone is close to death

Use in Tubetube Scripture:

used in Mark 4:35 On that day in the evening when the sun had set

Kube Language

Kube is a Papuan language spoken by about 7,700 people in the Morobe province of PNG. Their New Testament was recently finished! A Korean couple, Yeong-Sop & Hyun-Sook Lee are the translators.

12. E-va hia.

*The literal English translation: **Throat is good.***

Does it mean?

- A. Well satisfied, content
- B. Thank you.**
- C. Spoken your mind, made your opinion known

13. Bac-na yan-di-tsac.

*The literal English translation: **My liver gets big.***

Does it mean?

- A. I fear.**
- B. To get emotional
- C. I'm full, satisfied

14. Ung-a-na neng-ga-tsac.

*The literal English translation: **My spirit ran away***

Does it mean?

- A. I am frightened
- B. I am downhearted or depressed
- C. I am surprised.**