

CHRISTIAN LINGUISTICS AND BIBLICAL LANGUAGE TRANSLATION

By

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Abstract

Christian Linguistics is presented as an interdisciplinary academic program that combines linguistics, language translation, communication, and Christian studies to promote and preserve indigenous languages through Holy Bible translation and recitation. The program teaches students practical language translation skills by using existing Bible translations to develop multilingual translators, interpreters, broadcasters, editors, presenters, and communication facilitators for public and private sectors. It emphasizes that languages into which the Bible has been translated are preserved through continuous use in Christian worship, education, and literature, thereby protecting endangered indigenous languages from extinction. The study further proposes that Christian Linguistics serves as a rewarding academic programme for multilingual students by encouraging the translation of Bible chapters into multiple indigenous languages as part of final-year projects and practical examinations. Such training develops expertise in language translation while promoting the learning and continued use of indigenous Nigerian languages in schools, churches, and the media. The research concludes that Holy Scriptures have historically contributed to preserving both the original languages in which they were written and the languages into which they have been translated. Consequently, continued translation, recitation, and use of indigenous language Bibles are presented as effective means of sustaining linguistic diversity and producing qualified multilingual professionals for education, communication, and information services.

Keywords: Christian Linguistics, Language Translation, Indigenous Languages, Holy Bible, Multilingualism, Language Preservation, Communication, Bible Translation.

Introduction

In Christian Linguistics (and Language Translation) we use indigenous Language Bible Translation and recitation practical to teach Language translation and to produce Radio and Television Indigenous Languages News readers, translators' presenters, producers, and editors; this which helps to preserve and promote indigenous languages through indigenous language bibles and indigenous Radio and Television programs. Christian Linguistics thus, use Bible translation skills to produce Language translators and interpreters fluent in multiple indigenous languages: They can function as Multi Lingual communications intermediaries and facilitators in all establishments (public and private sectors).

As already noted, in Christian Linguistics we use Bible translation skills to teach language translation and to produce multi lingual experts and interpreters useful to our information and communications

sectors (including other sector) etc. Language translation in Christian linguistics, thus promotes and preserves indigenous languages from extinction by translating the Bible into the indigenous Languages.

Christian Linguistics is a reward academic program for multi-lingual students who can translate Bible chapters into at least three major indigenous languages (with translation commentaries) and submitted as their final year projects to possibly earn the first-class grade point. The program thus encourages Multi-lingual Nigerian students to register into Christian Linguistics and Language translation which can possibly earn them the first-class grade. This can encourage learning and fluency in indigenous languages; the consequence being that the program shall teach indigenous languages learning methods. Christian linguistics and language translation produce multi-lingual graduates and translators capable of translating English to indigenous languages, verse versa. These are graduates who translated Bible chapters from English to three or more indigenous languages, and submitted such as their 400 Levels final year projects. In this way, Christian linguistics and language translation promotes and preserves indigenous Nigerian languages by encouraging continued translations reviews, and re-translations of the Bible into indigenous languages. Christian linguistics encourage schools and churches constant recitations of indigenous languages Bible translations to promote and help prevent the indigenous languages from extinction. Languages used in writing (and translating) Holy Books have always been preserved in those Holy Books, even if no native speakers exist or survived. Good examples include Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, Latin, French, English, Sanskrit, Hindi, etc. which are languages widely spread and preserved by Holy Books. They are also widely studied because they were used in writing holy books (BDB; 2014). Christian Linguistics also produces indigenous Languages, Radio-Television News-Readers, Translators, editors, presenters and producers (etc) through indigenous Languages Bible (and Hymnals) recitation practical. Surely, an indigenous language News-reading and programs presentation training which involves indigenous languages bible recitations practical, is good training for indigenous language broadcasting and script writing journalism

Christian Linguistics Question

One basic question in Christian Linguistics is what roles language and communication played in the development of Christianity. Christian linguistics focuses on the role language, Language translation and communication played in the development of the Christian Religion. Ancient languages of Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and Latin were used in writing the Holy Bible, Ecclesiastical documents, and for preaching, teaching and spreading the Christian Gospel Message; in turn, the Holy Bible and Ecclesiastical documents written in those languages are now helping to preserve and promote the Languages which are currently being studied worldwide because Bible and related documents are written in those languages (John 19:19-22. Luke 23:38, Matt 28:18-20) (History of Christianity; Internet; 2026)

Ironically, English Theology partly teaches that Hebrew, Greek and Latin used in writing the Holy Bible and ancient ecclesia documents, eventually combined to produce the English Language as silently prophesied in John 19:19-22; and that over 2000 Hebrew and Greek Bible words are in current English, which English Theology also teaches (James Strong Biblical Hebrew; and Greek, Online: 2026)

Christian Linguistics and Language translation thus uses the Holy Bible to preserve protect and promote indigenous Nigerian Languages, since languages which Holy Books have been translated into, are preserved in those Holy books. What is Christian Linguistics; Christian Linguistics means;

- 1.Any Language which the Holy Bible has been translated into and

- 2.Languages which are used in teaching and spreading Christianity

- 3.Hence, Christian Linguistics does not recognize any language as Holy, rather all languages the Bible is translated into and used in teaching, preaching and spreading Christianity, are all Holy Christian Languages

1. In Christian Linguistics we teach students indigenous Language Bible translation skills which gives them Language translation skills and expertise, and qualifies them as Language translators, Interpreters and Communications facilitators and intermediaries in all workplace sectors. Including indigenous languages Bible readings in Christian Studies in Schools and Churches to help preserve, promote, keep alive and prevent from extinction the indigenous languages, in our increasingly Westernized African and Nigerian societies.

2. Christian Linguistics and Language translation thus encourages translation of the Holy Bible into all Languages particularly including Nigerian Indigenous Languages for the following reasons

- a. To use the Holy Book (i.e. Holy Bible) to preserve Indigenous Languages, especially if such languages are threatened by extinction

- b. To use the Holy Bible to promote Learning and spread of such languages

- c. To promote blended English and indigenous Bible recitations in our churches and schools to protect the indigenous languages from possible extinction

- d. To promote youth recitation of indigenous Languages Bibles in our Christian studies classes in schools which helps to instill indigenous languages in the young ones who are fast losing touch of the languages

- e. Christian linguistics and language translation will help to break the strong hold of English on our young ones. It is unfortunate that these young Christian students see nothing good in our indigenous languages

3a. Christian Linguistics and Language translation produce language translators and interpreters for all sectors of society (and for information, and communications broadcast, print and publishing media)

b.It also produces indigenous languages, Linguistics and English Language teachers

c.Importantly, this program rewards indigenous language multilingual and Bilingual students who in their final year oral examinations (and long essay projects) can verbally translate long Bible chapters (through recitations) into two to four major indigenous Nigerian languages; accompanied by final year projects translations of Bible Books into minimum three (or at least two major indigenous Nigerian Languages; their own dialects if not a major one, makes it three.

Christian Linguistics and Language translation

Christian Linguistics and Language translation is not necessarily re-translating the Bible into indigenous Languages,(though it's also an implication), rather, existing indigenous Languages Bible translations are used as translation practical and recitations to teach and produce Language translators,(particularly Indigenous language Bible translators)(b) and to teach and produce Radio and Television Indigenous Languages presenters, producers, News translators and readers, through indigenous Languages Bible recitations and translation practical.(Communications; Online 2026).

Christian Linguistics and Language translation degree program encourages multi-lingual first-class seeking students to learn indigenous Nigerian languages since their ability to translate Bible chapters into three to four indigenous languages in semester examinations and final year projects can earn their first class. It uses indigenous language translations of the Bible to preserve and promote the indigenous languages.

1. On admission, the students from 100 level to 300level shall go through Linguistics, Textual, Language and Language translation theories and exam practical (including oral indigenous language translation practical's) from Verbal English Bible to indigenous Language translations. (Bland et al, 1985).
2. The entire 400L first and second semesters shall be for Bible translation final year project translation practical and graduation practical exams.
3. The department shall choose one Old Testament and one New Testament books each from which the final year students shall translate at least chapters 1-5 (from e.g. Genesis and Mathew, each) into at least three major indigenous Nigerian languages, verified by indigenous language resource examiners).
4. The final year indigenous Bible translation project shall (a) contain the translation as specified by No 2 (b) The Project shall contain translation commentaries such as alphabets and indigenous language words (i.e lists of Vocabularies) used in the translation (c) "B" is a glossary to enable non speakers of that language to make some sense or understanding of the

translation without much other help (d) It shall also contain commentary notes on vowels and consonant uses in the syntax structures of the translations (Mairi et al; 2014)

Career Opportunities

1. Christian Linguists shall also be employed in all government and private ministries (and establishments) as multi-lingual (and Bilingual) expert information and communications Facilitators in English and indigenous languages.
2. Graduates of Christian Linguistics are to be employed in schools to encourage use of indigenous language Bible translations in teaching Christian studies (and its Bible recitations) to promote learning and speaking of indigenous languages through indigenous language Bible translations.
3. Christian Linguistic Language translations can be employed as radio-television indigenous language news renders, translators, editors, producers etc.
4. Christian Linguistics shall also promote Constant recitations of indigenous languages Bible in church services, and blended English and local languages usage in teachings and preaching of the Christian Gospel message in church services to keep the local languages alive in the lives of those heavily influenced by foreign languages.
5. Theories and practicals in Linguistics and language translation learnt by Christian linguistics experts in indigenous language Bible translation practical's, prepares them as general language translators in information and communication media outfits, and as language interpreters etc.

Conclusion

Christian Linguistics Bible translation B.A Degree program is a train the trainer program whereby its graduates train's other locals to initiate translations (and reviews of existing translations) of the Bible into local languages to help preserve, promote and prevent the languages from extinction through constant use of the indigenous language Bible translations in Christian Studies classes, and in Church services Bible readings to keep the indigenous languages alive in the minds of Westernized African and Nigerian children. Christian Linguistics helps to promote and preserve indigenous Languages by using indigenous language Bible translation to produce language translators including for the information and communications media sector. It is also a reward academic program for multilingual students who are able to produce final year projects of Bible chapters translated into three or more indigenous Languages, and successfully defended orally. This research work clearly shows that Holy Scriptures help to promote and preserve languages used to write them, including subsequent translations. In other words, the research found out that, ancient languages used in writing holy books and languages which those holy books have been translated into, are clearly and firmly preserved from extinction by those holy books. Hence, as holy books are translated into indigenous languages

(including indigenous Nigerian Languages), it is certain that, those indigenous languages will be protected from extinction, since non speakers of those languages can always consult the languages in those holy books.

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