

PROCESSES OF THE TRANSLATION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Recipient Language for the Translation: Tem, mainly spoken in the central region of Togo, in some parts of Ghana and Benin. ISO 639-3 language code: KDH

Venue used for the translation: Globalbility office in Lomé, Togo, nearby the University of Lomé.

Period used for the translation: April 11, 2016 up to December 31, 2016

Period for the proofreading: January 1, 2017 up to April 31, 2017

Translated document: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

INTRODUCTION

The translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has not been an easy task but with the determination of Globalbility Togo members and the support we got, the translation was finalized. The project of translating the document has started on April 11, 2016 and it took nine months for Tem members in Globalbility Togo to finish the translation. The work was shaped as follows:

TRANSLATORS

Tem native speakers of Globalbility have been the translators of the Human Right Declaration in Tem. They are about 50 to translate the document (but all were not coming at the same time to the meetings). They have been assisted by the native speakers of languages like Akebu, Ncam, Akaselem, Ewe, Kusuntu, Fulfulde, Kabiyè, Ajagbe. Some of them have the Universal Declaration of Human Rights translated into their native languages already while native speakers of other languages (Ncam, Kusuntu, Fulfulde, etc) can speak Tem in addition to their languages.

PRESENTATIONS ON THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Before and during the process of the translation, there had been a series of presentations on the Human Right Declaration and how to do a good translation:

- Sophia Leenay from USA participated in the meetings of Globalbility Togo from April 30, to May 25, 2016 and she had presented on the History of Human Rights and the introduction to theory of translation by focusing on a created guide and an evaluation grid to facilitate translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Philipp Leitlein from Germany stayed at Globalbility Togo for about three months and helped to better understand the articles of the Human Right Declaration.
- Gade Somidotun from Nigeria stayed at Globalbility Togo for four months and presented on How Universal Declaration of Human Rights came to be.
- Mats Blakstad from Norway who encouraged the idea of translating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into local languages has been collaborating with Globalbility Togo members to facilitate the translation. He provided them with useful informations and he also contributed a lot in shaping the processes of the translation.

ORGANIZATION OF THE TRANSLATION TASKS

Before starting the translation, Tem members were encouraged to search more information on Human Right Declaration. There had also been some presentations on Human Rights at the meeting of Globalbilty held every Monday at 13h30 PM. After these steps, the Human Right Declaration had been printed and given to all Tem native speakers at the meeting in order to read them at home. At the next meetings, the same document was read and difficult words were explained. Those who read the document at home but did not get the meaning of some articles had the opportunity to ask questions about their worries. With the help of some linguists and law students like DEGLO Ulrich, their questions were answered. Difficult words in French were underlined and explained before encouraging members to look for their equivalences in Tem. The equivalences in Tem people found, were discussed in the meetings before keeping the suitable ones.

THE TRANSLATION OF THE DOCUMENT

After finding, underlining, explaining and clarifying French difficult words in the Human Right Declaration, Tem native speakers looked for the equivalences of these words before starting the translation of the document at home. Thus, only one article is translated in a meeting.

Before the meeting, Tem native speakers were informed about the article to translate at the next meeting so that they could translate it at home before the day of the meeting.

In the meeting, everybody came with his or her article translated. Then, they sat in small workshops to discuss the article translated. Anybody who translated a single word should explain the reason why the word in Tem was chosen for the translation. On this basis, the best translation of the article was chosen and wrote on the board so that all the participants in the meeting could bring their contributions to improve it. In the case, the suitable translation of the article was not found, they dealt with the same article in the next meeting but members had to do more research on it before coming.

AFTER TRANSLATION

After the translation of the Human Right Declaration, the preamble and articles in Tem are typed by a linguist and sent to experts in Tem for proofreading.

The following experts in Tem helped proofread the document:

- Zakari TCHAGBALE, Tem native speaker, linguist and professor at the University of Cocody, Côte d'Ivoire
- Moubachir KORDOW H, Tem native speaker, Translator and a member of *Ligue des Oulemas du Togo*
- Souroutawi WOROGO, an elder Tem native speaker and translator.

Any useful suggestion or correction we got was integrated after a strict approval committee of seven Tem native speakers in charge of updating the document. Those who sit in the committee to revise the translation are:

- Sabaha KORODOW
- Lamy MADJEDJE
- Mourtala M. ZAKARI
- Latifou BANG'NAA.
- Falilatou TRAORE
- Zoulkoufoulou OURO-GBELE
- Issaka OURO-WETCHIRE

EVALUATION OF THE TRANSLATION PROCESS

After the translation of the document, we evaluated the process with everybody who was involved in the translation. The following feedbacks were given:

Out of the translation of the UDHR, the participants expressed that they:

- master the alphabet of local languages.
- learn to write and read words in Tem.
- learn how to input using the keyboard for local languages.
- learn new words and terms in Tem.
- find out that it is not easy to translate a text from French to local language but it is possible.
- find out that local languages are also able to express almost everything including universal issues.
- learn to not translate sentences word-by-word.
- discover several translation methods.
- find out that a noun in French can be translated with a verb or an adjective into local languages and some single words can only be translated with a sentence as their equivalence in some languages.
- memorize some articles and learn how to translate them into local languages.
- understand that the original human right declaration is rich in terms of individual and collective freedoms. Therefore, its consideration and formal application would contribute to the full development of the humanity without forgetting the immensity of both the writing and the culture of local languages.
- have the chance to be in constant contact with the document of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights. It has also been an opportunity for them to meditate on the articles of this Declaration.

Difficulties in translating the UDHR according to the participants are as follows:

- The lack of mastery of the alphabet of local languages,
- Problem in making some sentences and using tones.
- The problem related to the lack of vocabulary mastery and the inadequate equivalence of words while translating.

- Some words have no equivalence in French and it is difficult to choose a word in local languages to translate them and keep the same meaning.
- Most of the words in local languages are loanwords.
- The styles of Indo-European languages do not correspond to the realities of African languages.
- Sometimes it is difficult to agree on certain expressions. Moreover, some equivalences of a French word gives a whole expression in local languages and vice versa.
- Not so easy to synthesize words and expressions from variants of the same local language.
- The translation seems slow.

According to the translators, to improve the translation process of the UDHR, we need to:

- insist on learning the alphabet of local languages before starting the translation
- Help members get the notion of multiple parts of local language alphabets.
- encourage members to read documents in local languages.
- learn local languages and translation techniques before starting.
- give everybody the chance to be able to translate at home before coming to the meeting
- organize more translation works in small groups.
- do research individually to allow members to expand their lexical field.
- give members more time to do research.
- have more time to study the document to be translated.
- make a preliminary reading and explanation of the whole document to be translated (do the work in small groups followed by the plenary sessions, over-extend this work in time, do rehearsal sessions in the presence of everyone) .
- get people understand the document in French.
- form committees to work on translation and correct the results of the translated documents.
- have dictionaries in each language to facilitate translation.
- to select or constitute beforehand group of experts in local languages, charged with guiding or clarifying the debate when any altercations or discordances occurred in the translation.
- make use of the real speakers either by inviting them or by going to them.
- mobilize more people in our respective neighborhood and get them involved in the translation sessions.
- motivate more members.
- give incentives to members who submit their translation earlier.

During the process, the participants contribute/helped to:

- correct the translation.
- provide appropriate vocabulary to facilitate translation into local languages
- make meaningful the translated sentences into local languages.
- make suggestions to facilitate work such as: one should not focus on words by seeking their equivalences but adapt them to the context.
- harmonize the understanding of the styles used in the text to be translated by focusing on the language variant of the village they are from.
- clarify certain words to make them easier for the translation.
- do personal research.

- demonstrate a critical spirit during the discussions of the translation.
- translate difficult or complex words
- lead or facilitate translation work sessions
- transcribe.
- propose a good organization of the work for the translation.
- translate in advance and alone, if possible, the entire document to be translated in order to encourage and facilitate the discussion of group translation sessions.
- teach the use of tones and sounds of the alphabet of local languages to members.
- teach the writing of certain words in local languages.
- type the translated document using a local language keyboard.

THE FOLLOWING TEM NATIVE SPEAKERS HAVE MADE THIS TRANSLATION :

Last name	Name
ABILE	Aboubacar
ADAM	Mouhamed
ADAMOU	Alouridine
ATCHOUROU	Moudjitaba
BAKO	Nouriétou
BANG'NA A.	Latifou
BIYAO	Latifatou
BOUKARI	Kadiratou
DARA	Hamidoulahi
DARA	Aliou
DJOBO	Abdou-Satarou
DJOBO	Nayimatou

DJOBO A.	Samadou
IBRAHIM , ISSIFOU	Hadi , Awali
KELEWO	Hamdiyat
KONDO NAWA	Zoukanérou
KORODOW H.	Sabaha T.
KORODOW	Hamdi
KOURA	Sikira
KOUROUPARA I.	Aminou
KPELAFIA	Akilou
MADJEDJE	Lamy
MADJEDJE M.	Anouar
MAMAN A.	Yassine
MOHAMED	Abdoulaye
MOROU	Mohamadou
MOUMOUNI	Sabouane
OURO-DJALA	Rafatou
OURO-GBELE	Zoulkoufoulou
OURO-KOURA	Roufaï
OURO-LOGAN	Zoubébatou

OURO-NIMINI	Barissou
OURO-SAMA	Moukaïla
OURO-SAMA NYTCHE	Aïcha
OURO-WETCHIRE	Issaka
OUROSEVEYA	Aboudou Rahim
SOKLOMOU	Malika
SOULE A. SOULE	Ganiou Abdoul- Bassitou
TCHA-AKONDO	Srafilou
TCHADIKENI	Safoua
TCHADJOBO	Nouhoum
TCHAGBALE	Rassidatou
TCHAKORA M.	Hadi
TCHAKOURA	Amoussadatou
TCHAKPIDE	Bilal
TCHALARE	Rachida
TCHASSALA	Inoussa
TCHAZAWA	Aboubacar
TOURE MOHAMED	Badaroudine
TRAORE	Falilatou

ZAKARI M.

Mourtala