

A Sweet Sound: Absorbing God's Word in the Language of the Heart

If a person speaks several languages, does it matter which language they choose for spiritual disciplines such as reading the Bible and prayer?

The emotional impact of engaging Scripture in the language of the heart (a person's first language)

Why this emotional impact?

1. Comprehension
2. Language use in different spheres of life
3. Language and identity
4. Biblical concepts and local culture
 - a. Covenant in Nulibié
 - b. Evil spirit in Yemba

Moving on to English: does the issue of "mother tongue" have any relevance to monolingual English speakers?

1. Bono and Eugene Peterson (clip)
2. English translations and the issue of mother tongue (or "my English")
3. Formal equivalence or dynamic equivalence

Application

1. If you are working with children, or new believers, or ESL speakers, what kind of English translation might you want to choose?
2. Where can you help someone find a Bible translation or recording in their mother tongue?
www.youversion.com The Bible App,
www.bible.is.com (a ministry of Faith Comes by Hearing)
3. Take into account the person's preference for oral or print access to Scriptures
4. Take into account the person's preference for individual or communal
5. A couple options for English speakers to engage the Bible in community, with technology
Community Bible experience (from Biblica)
The Bible Project (from Crazy Love Ministries)