Divine Familial Terms Translation Procedures:
Executive Summary
December 2016

This document provides guidelines for the translation of divine familial terms in compliance with the *SIL Standards for Translation of Divine Familial Terms*. Detailed guidelines may be found in the document "Divine Familial Terms Translation Procedures."

Ways a translation may be considered compliant

There are two ways a translation may be considered compliant. The first way applies to a translation that is considered Scripture, and is based on whether the divine familial terminology follows SIL standards 1-3. The second way is for a translation product to be presented as, and perceived by the audience as something other than Scripture, that is, a different genre (SIL standards 4).

Compliance based on genre

If the translation is not presented as or perceived as Scripture and does not contain the features expected of scripture and does not fulfill the functions of Scripture in the community, it is called a Scripture-based product and divine familial terminology does not need to conform to standards 1-3. See Appendices A and H of the Divine Familial Terms Translation Procedures document for help deciding whether a translation should be a Scripture product or Scripture-based product.

Scripture Product	Scripture-Based Product
•is labeled as Scripture •is perceived by audience as Scripture •contains the features expected of Scripture •functions in the community as Scripture •DFTs must conform to SIL standards 1-3	•is clearly labelled as something other than Scripture •clearly differs from audience's perception of Scripture •contains features not expected in Scripture •does not fulfil many of the functions of scripture •DFTs do not need to conform to SIL standards 1-3 •may "describe God and Jesus more generically … rather than using the divine familial terms" •examples:*tafsir* (commentary), *qusas al-anbiya* (stories of the prophets) and *sirah* (life stories)

Project partners should produce a **project brief** that lists stakeholders, identifies the genre of the product, and documents the divine familial term choices and decision-making process.

Demonstrating that a translation is a Scripture-based product

Project partners should **gather examples** from the local community, or related language community, of the genre they are considering. The Scripture-based product should share many of the same characteristics of the examples that are gathered.

Project partners should **prepare a rough mock-up** of the Scripture-based product in the medium it will appear for testing with the primary audience in order to determine whether this is perceived as Scripture or not. For ideas on how to test mock-up products, please see the document "Genre testing—questionnaire" in the appendix. Partners should record the results of testing on the form "Genre testing—Summary."

Compliance based on terminology

Selection of terms

The chosen renderings for divine familial terms should communicate "the most directly equivalent familial words within the given linguistic and cultural context" (WEA Report, pp. 6, 32) of the primary audience. The Report further defines "Son" (and, for "father" the reciprocal is assumed) by the term "Son by nature." Therefore, the most directly equivalent familial term is also the term which most closely conforms to the four components of Son by Nature described in the Report (p. 32).

The following are the four components of meaning that define "Son by nature:"

The son is derived from his father	The son has a shared identity with his father
The son is in intimate relationship with his father	The son has a unique status in relation to his father
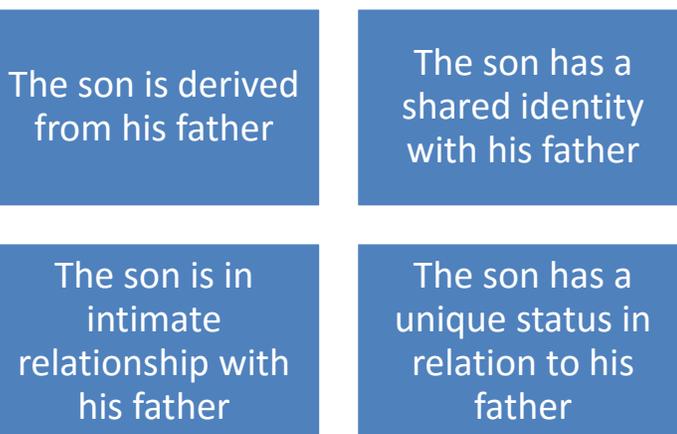
In addition to conforming to the four components of meaning, the chosen term should

- not obscure the uniqueness of the Divine Father and Son relationship
- use the common terms for "father" and "son" when possible
- avoid misunderstanding of the terms "Father" and "Son" (for example, biological procreation) to the degree that this is possible

Process for selecting terms

Step 1: Identify potential terms

Project partners should make a list of terms in the receptor language that conform to the four components of meaning that define "Son by nature."

Step 2: Test with primary audience

Then they should test the most suitable term(s) and further narrow the list if necessary. In order to discover how the primary audience understands the term, it is necessary to test among a variety of people in the primary audience (vary according to age, gender, religious background). (See appendices D, E, F, G, and H in the "Translation Procedures" document for ideas and details regarding the process of testing). Testing should determine the following:

- Which of the four components of meaning that define "Son by nature" are present?
- What wrong meanings are present that will need to be addressed?

Step 3: Review terms in context

Once the chosen terms are determined through testing to conform to the definition of "Son by nature," they should be reviewed in their Scriptural contexts by representatives of the primary audience. **The testing and review process should be documented for review by a translation consultant and eventually an assessment group.**

Step 4: Address misunderstandings

Although a term may conform to the definition of "Son by nature," the term might include connotations that lead to additional wrong meanings. For example, the term might be so strongly associated with biological procreation in the mind of the receptor audience that this audience cannot recognize a different kind of fatherhood and sonship within God There are four ways that a translation might address these wrong understandings and still be compliant. These four strategies are not mutually exclusive and two or more strategies may be used together.

Modifier	• phrases such as, "Son from God;" "Son who comes from God;" "Son who is derived from God." • adjectives such as "divine son;" "unique son;" "royal son;" "beloved son;" or "heavenly father;" "loving father" etc.
Compound term	• use more than one word to emphasize a component of the definition of "Son by nature" over the wrong meaning, e.g. "God's dear royal son" • use more than one word to meet each component of the definition
Paratext	• should explain correct meaning, including intertextual development, and refute wrong meaning • examples include introductions, footnotes, glossary entries
Alternate familial term	• familial terms that may not conform to all four components of meaning of "Son by nature" • examples: royal son; God's one and only

If the team cannot find suitable terms

If the project partners go through the above process and are not able to identify terms that both conform to the definition of "Son by nature" and block a wrong understanding, then the team has two options, in accordance with the principles defined in the document "Processes for Accuracy and Accountability in Bible Translation" (p. 5). The two options are to produce a different genre, or to acknowledge that the translation is non-compliant with SIL standards.
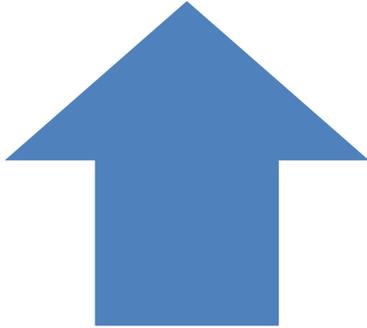
Option A: Choose a different genre

- Modify the Project Brief in consultation with the translation consultant and all the partners, and agree on an appropriate Scripture-based product.
- Define what the characteristics of that product will be and test that the primary audience validates the genre. Document this process and keep documentation on file.
- Choose appropriate renderings for divine familial terms, possibly one of those that was considered earlier in the process
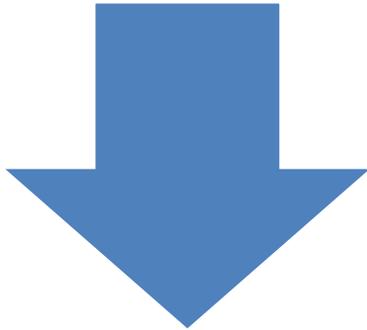
Option B: Acknowledge non-compliance

SIL and Wycliffe organizations who are key stakeholders will:

- withdraw from involvement by procedures agreed upon with the other stakeholders
- not provide funding for translation projects that are not in compliance with SIL standards