

the whole, it is not advisable to 'make up' an artificial dialect. These attempts are rarely, if ever, successful. It is best to choose that dialect which (1) is the culturally dominant one, (2) is on the whole most regular in grammatical formations, and (3) is most easily understood by the other dialects. At times it is impossible to find all these requirements met in a single dialect, and so some compromises must be made (the techniques for arriving at satisfactory solutions of such difficulties are often very complicated). However, by settling upon one form of the language, one not only tends to create a vehicle of communication which will have wider use than any of the previous local dialects, but the very consistency of writing tends to build up an impression of unity of visual impression. Though writing as each person speaks does have some advantages for the particular dialect in question, nevertheless, after some introduction to the 'literary dialect' readers often gain amazing facility in its use, for reading is fundamentally a system of visual symbolism and is not completely dependent upon corresponding sounds. The big difficulty of course comes in attempting to teach people to read a dialect which is not their own. Accordingly, it is wise to provide primers and some introductory materials in the specific dialect in question. Once the person has learned what reading is, he can then with much greater ease make the adjustment to another dialect.

(To be continued)

## A Note on Matthew 6 : 27

Rev. W. M. Scott, chief reviser of the Nepali Bible, writes:—

"In the translation of Matthew there have been some profitable discussions about certain phrases. One of particular interest occurred in connection with chapter 6, verse 27, "Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?" (part of the Sermon on the Mount). My own opinion for a long time has been that the translation of the Authorised Version is not correct and that we ought to read, "Which of you by being anxious can add a span to his age?". Luke 12 : 25 undoubtedly means that. It is the same word in John 9 : 21 and 23, and in Hebrews 11 : 11. No one surely would think of adding a *cubit* to his stature, although some try to add an inch. Many people, however, do give anxious thought to the prolongation of their lives! I find several commentators of the same opinion as myself."

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## Obedient to the Letter!

A little while ago an African house-boy of the Lunyore tribe asked his master in tones of the gravest concern why he used a white dish for his dog's food. To his master's perplexed rejoinder, "Why not?", the answer was that it was forbidden in Scripture, for did not the good Book say, "Give not that which is *white* unto the dogs"?

Was this a legitimate risk for the translators to take or was there really no other word for "holy"?