

appearance of the precious stone and not a puzzle which holds up the understanding of the rest of the verse.

Grammatical Subtleties

The richness of Bantu verbal forms and tenses sometimes facilitates the rendering of some of the subtleties of the Greek form and of the middle voice. Prefix, infix, and suffix may pile up in Lokele to make a long and sometimes forbidding word to Europeans, but one which in itself can express several English words, e.g. in Hebrews 1:18, *ebitilatombolomoko* 'which things shall not ever be falsified'. On the debit side, however, Lokele has no definite nor any indefinite article, so that demonstratives must sometimes be used to supply the lack in this part of speech.

It is interesting and often useful to compare the versions of a text, and thus the translator may be reminded of little-used vernacular words which exactly render the word under consideration. One such case is "purloiners" in Titus 2:10. Reference to Tyndale's wonderfully alive translation gives "be not pickers." This means 'petty thieves, sneak thieves'. The Lokele *wiya* is too severe a word, but *bokwangä* seems exactly to suit the sense required and means 'sneaking and taking off what was carefully hidden or set aside'.

The full and completed revision has been submitted to a group of Congo evangelists drawn from those tribes who speak Lokele as their mother tongue or who use it in market, school, and church life. This group met under the able chairmanship and counsel of Dr. J. F. Carrington, Principal of the Grenfell Institute at Yalamba near Yakusu, and amended and criticized the work as it proceeded. The senior Lokele pastor has also made frequent contributions to the vocabulary used and has been consulted on specific problems. The work, commenced in July 1954, was completed in July 1956, and the typescript is now ready for the press. The group of Africans at Yalamba are appreciative of words and phrases now used in the revision and say, "This is the Lokele that is being lost in our land," and are happy to find it now used in the service of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is indeed our desire, not merely that good Lokele should be read and used, but that the Word of God shall clearly be understood and believed, for the Church of Christ in Congo must here find her spiritual food and her message to Africa.

Check that Word!

Dr. Wesley Sadler, linguist, promoter of literature and literacy, and translator among the Loma people of Liberia, tells about asking an informant for the word for 'midwife', which he had forgotten. The informant immediately came up with a word which on investigation turned out to mean 'the middle one of three wives'.