

the meaning of this word to pass only by word of mouth with the great probability of its being distorted in one way or another.

As a result of this experience with these believers, I have the following suggestions for the translation of this term:

1. In the first occurrence of this word in the New Testament, i.e. in Luke 1:59, use a literal translation for the act of circumcision of the baby John. Probably, since it is a baby that is involved, this would not seem vulgar to the people but be comparable to the baptizing of their infants when they are given their names.
2. As part of the text immediately following, give some short parenthetical explanation, such as "(This act of cutting is called 'circumcision')," here introducing the Spanish loan. The reason for suggesting that the parenthetical explanation be a part of the text is for the information of the reader who has not learned to read footnotes and perhaps may never have anyone to teach him how to apply them to the text.
3. In all other passages in the New Testament where this word occurs, use the loan *circuncision* with a footnote reference "See Luke 1:59."

This form of procedure will give the reader the basic knowledge he needs, to which may be added the spiritual applications found farther along in the epistles.

I would like to have opinions on this suggested method of translating this term.

"A Spade is a Spade"

In the Malay translation of the New Testament that came from the press a few years before the war, the word for 'leprosy' was shunned, on the ground that in all likelihood such a malady was not meant by the writer. Instead of 'leprosy' a transliteration of the Hebrew word was used: 'the zara'at illness'. The advisory committee for the present revision, however, decided to go back to the traditional rendering and to use a word meaning leprosy. The proposal to do so was "carried with acclamation." Afterwards one of the pastors on the committee said, with a happy sigh of relief: "Now I have no longer to explain the word every time we come across it in my congregation."

"How did you explain it?" I asked.

"Well, I always said: The translators seem not to know what this word means, but it must have been something very much like leprosy."

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