ductory particles. Every sentence of the hundred might begin with some one of the ten introductory particles, but the overall variety would still be only ten different particles. In a case like this, Table 2 does not give a valid measure of the variety. We can, however, get from it a general idea of whether we are using enough variety in translating, by taking Table 2 as an approximation. Thus for a variety of ten different particles used in 100 sentences of text, we could still agree to question the naturalness of any translation in which a similar sample used less than four different particles or more than fifteen, as indicated by Table 2; but we could not be as definite about the statistical basis for our answer.

Summary

The counting techniques described here give the translator a simple means of determining whether certain gross features of his translation are used with a frequency that is natural to the receptor language. The procedure can, of course, be applied to things not mentioned in this article that the translator feels need examining, provided that the restrictions stated are observed.

At the cost of relatively little effort on the part of the translator, these frequency counts point out areas where a translation needs to be smoothed. Counts can be made from time to time in the course of translation in much the same way that quality control samples are taken from the output of a factory. The results of the counts can also be made available to the Bible Societies along with other materials when discussing publication of a translation; though they do not offer proof positive that a translation sounds natural, they show that the translator is aware of the goal toward which he is aiming.

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