Translation Consultant

A translation consultant offers a strong linguistic and exegetical background to come alongside Bible translators and help with difficult translation problems. They also are crucial for the checking stages of the Bible translation. A consultant has access to translation data from numerous translation programs and can use this to offer solutions to common problems.

EDUCATION: *Training requirements for translation consultants vary from branch to branch within SIL. Consultants must have as strong a background as possible in both linguistics and exegesis. The Masters of Applied Linguistics & Exegesis degree (MLE), offered at CanIL/ACTS is an ideal minimum for this role. MLE students should choose courses which have a strong emphasis in translation and grammar as well as both Greek and Hebrew. They should also acquire a recommended reading list from SIL for translation consultants. It is likely that having completed all these steps, a person will still need to work alongside other translation consultants for on-the-job training for a number of years before consulting independently. This experience will likely give the consultant expertise in specialized areas, such as the epistles, the book of Revelation or unique features of the languages of a specific region.*

Computational Linguist

Computer programmers with linguistics training can help develop new ways for computers to recognize and analyze human speech. This skill can be used in numerous areas in missions, such as linguistic software programming.

EDUCATION: *Linguistics training at every grammatical level as well as an education in computer programming is crucial to a position in this growing field. A BA in Applied Linguistics from TWU and a BA or MA in Computer Science (not offered at TWU) could be a good starting point.*

CANADA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS

7600 Glover Road
Langley, BC V2Y 1Y1
CANADA

1-888-513-2129 x3945
admissions@canil.ca

www.canil.ca

Linguistic Careers

On the Mission Field

There are needs all over the world for missionaries with linguistic training. Wycliffe Bible Translators, New Tribes Mission and Pioneer Bible Translators are organizations that need linguists. CanIL works in association with Trinity Western University and ACTS Seminaries to offer training for many of these careers.

CANADA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS

Bible Translator

People with training in linguistics and Biblical exegesis work with nationals in the context of the area where an unwritten language is spoken to translate the Bible into another language. This means choosing a language group, living among a people group, learning the language, creating an orthography and lexicon of the language, analyzing the grammar and translating the Bible in strategic portions into the heart language of a people group. Translators develop relationships with native speakers, discuss the original meaning of a passage and try to use their knowledge of the language and the cultural context of the people group to faithfully convey the original meaning in the new language. Translators work together with a team of other linguists and support missionaries to accomplish this task.

EDUCATION: *A minimum of a BA, including 3 semesters of specific linguistics courses, is required to begin a translation program with Wycliffe in most cases. It is strongly recommend that a student complete a significant amount of exegetical training including Greek and Hebrew as well. All the linguistic and exegetical training needed for a strong translation program is provided in the Masters of Applied Linguistics & Exegesis degree (MLE) at CanIL/ACTS. A student may wish to complete the minimum courses as part of a degree program, pause their program to go the field and assess their needs for further training in specific linguistic and exegetical areas, and return after a few years to complete their degree. This field experience can enhance the quality of the learning experience for the remainder of their coursework.*

Literacy Intern

Literacy workers bring a crucial aspect to the work of Bible translation. They use the grammar data gathered and analyzed by the translator to create materials to teach native speakers to read and write in their own language. This way, when portions of the Bible are completed, native speakers are ready to read the Scriptures in their own language.

EDUCATION: *For most SIL branches worldwide, training for a literacy intern position can be completed in as little as 1 to 2 semesters of specific linguistic courses. All of these courses are offered at CanIL in the Literacy Track: Phonetics, Phonology, Principles of Literacy, and Language & Culture Acquisition. They can be taken in just one summer.*

Scripture Use Worker

Scripture Use workers have some Bible training as well as some linguistics training. Their purpose is to help native speakers use the Scriptures, once they know how to read them. They work with the local church and community to promote the use of Scripture in community life and teaching.

EDUCATION: *For most SIL branches worldwide, training for a Scripture Use position can be completed in as little as two semesters of specific linguistic courses. All of these courses are offered at CanIL in the Scripture Use Track: Language and Society, Phonetics, Language & Culture Acquisition, Scripture Use, Ethnography, Language Program Design and Management, Intro to Missions (RELS 285 offered by TWU). All of these can be taken in one summer and one fall semester.*

Language Surveyor

A crucial element of the whole translation process is accurate language survey. Surveyors are the first to encounter the language and analyze its relationship to surrounding languages. They determine if a language is related or independent from other languages and if it will require a separate translation or the same translation as a neighboring area. Surveyors travel to remote areas.

EDUCATION: *For most SIL branches worldwide, training for a Language Surveyor position can be completed in two semesters of specific linguistic courses. All of these courses are offered at CanIL in the Language Survey Track: Language and Society, Phonetics, Phonology, Language & Culture Acquisition, Ethnography, Principles of Sociolinguistic Survey. All of these can be completed in one summer and one fall semester. Any background and experience in cross-cultural communication and anthropology can also be very helpful for language surveyors.*

Language Learner

Any missionary working in any context where there is a foreign language will benefit from some linguistics training to help in their language learning process. Some CanIL courses are designed to help in this area for those who are going to the mission field to help in diverse support roles.

EDUCATION: *Training requirements will depend on the specific role on the mission field. Courses that will be most helpful in the language learning process are all available at CanIL and can be taken in one summer in the Language Learning Track: Language and Society, Phonetics, Grammatical Analysis, and Language & Culture Acquisition.*