

# MOVE OVER LOVE !

**Aim:** to provide an insight into the complexities of Bible translation.

**Audience:** any age group. Any number of people, minimum 6.

**Duration:** 10 minutes.

**Description:** a word order language puzzle for an audience to solve involving 6 volunteers.

**Biblical Basis:** Deuteronomy 6:5.

**Equipment:** 7 pieces of A4 card with English and Inga words on them (provided).



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## Leader's Instructions:

1. The audience is going to rearrange a sentence that has been translated into the Inga language so that it fits Inga word order. Ask for 6 volunteers to come and line up in front of the audience.
2. Put the '-ta' card to one side and hand out the remaining 6 cards along the line of helpers, making sure that the English words end up in a jumbled order.
3. Get the helpers to hold their cards so that the English words are facing the audience.
4. Explain that the object of the activity is for the 6 helpers to respond correctly to the information you are going to give them. The audience may give advice and encouragement whenever they want to.
5. Talk the audience through the stages laid out in the Leader's Script below.

## Leader's Script:

### Stage 1:

**Question:** The English words on these cards make up a sentence. What order should they be in?

**Answer:** 'Love God with all your heart'.

This is a key verse in the Bible. It was one of the commandments that God gave to the Jewish people. Jesus quoted this verse in his teaching and said that the most important thing we can do is to love God with all our hearts, with all our souls and with all our strength (Deuteronomy 6:5, Mark 12:30).

**All Change!** Helpers, rearrange yourselves so that the sentence makes sense and then turn your cards over.



### Stage 2:

**Question:** Here is the same sentence translated into the Inga language which is spoken by 15,000 people in the Andes mountains of Colombia. Which word from the original English sentence has disappeared and why do you think it has?

**Answer:** 'Your'. An Inga person would say that if you are loving someone, of course you can't love them with anyone else's heart! In an Inga sentence like this one, it's so obvious whose heart is being talked about that the word 'your' is not necessary and is missed out completely.

**All Change!** Blank Card, you are not needed any more. Please stand at the end of the line and become the full stop!



**Stage 3:**

**Question:** What other word in the sentence has changed and why do you think it has?

**Answer:** The Inga word for 'liver' is used instead of the word for 'heart'. For the Ingas, the liver is the seat of their emotions rather than the heart. Our hearts are muscles that pump blood around our bodies to keep us alive: we don't actually love with them, even though we say we do! An Inga man would not understand how he could possibly love God with his heart! When translating the Bible, it is important to understand a person's culture as well as their language so that misunderstandings don't happen.

**All Change!** Helpers, you don't need to change positions this time.

KUYAI DIUS -WA TUKUI SUNGU

**Stage 4:**

**Question:** Where in a sentence in English do we usually put the action word (verb)?

**Answer:** In the middle eg: 'I love God'. The Inga language uses a different word order from English. Action words come at the end of Inga sentences.

**All Change!** Helpers, please rearrange yourselves.

DIUS -WA TUKUI SUNGU KUYAI

**Stage 5:**

**Question:** Why do you think the Inga word for 'with' begins with a hyphen?

**Answer:** It should be joined onto another word. Inga does not have separate connecting words (prepositions). Instead words like '-wa' are joined onto the ends of the words they connect with. In this sentence, we are being urged to love God with our livers so '-wa' needs to join the end of 'sungu'.

**All Change!** Helpers, please rearrange yourselves. 'Sungu' and '-Wa', you can hold the tops of each other's cards so that the two words become one.

DIUS TUKUI SUNGU -WA KUYAI

## NOTES:

### Stage 6:

**Question:** In this sentence, in which direction is the love going?

**Answer:** Towards God. That is easy for us to guess because we can remember the original English sentence. In Inga the meaning is not yet clear. To translate it well we need to add '-ta' to the word for God. '-Ta' carries the idea of 'towards'.

**All Change!** Blank Card, you can have the '-ta' card and attach yourself to the end of 'Dius'.



### Stage 7:

**Question:** Can anyone recall the original English sentence?

**Answer:** 'Love God with all your heart'. This has become 'God-towards all liver-with love'. Look at how much had to change to translate just 6 words! It's no wonder that it takes 15 years on average to translate the whole of the New Testament from scratch. Bible translation is a long-term investment.

Stephen and Nessie Levinsohn, a British Wycliffe couple, headed up the Inga translation team. the Levinsons now live in the UK, and Stephen uses his experience to train multiple teams how to translate the Bible into their own mother tongue. At a course in Chad, he trained people from 15 language groups! More and more, local people will be doing this work themselves - with our support.

**All Change!** Helpers, you can hand back your cards now and sit down. Thank you for your help.

### Optional Extras:

This activity works well as a children's talk or school assembly. Make larger cards if necessary. It can also be used in a smaller group. The helpers can remain sitting down while they show the cards and then swop seats or cards as appropriate.

With adaptation, this activity can be used with other languages, providing they have a different sentence structure from English.

SUNGUD  
(*liver*)

**KUYA!**

**(love)**

TUKU

*(all)*

**-WVA**  
**(with)**

**DILLS**  
**(Good)**



**T  
-  
A**

**(towards)**

**LOVE**

# THE ART

GOOD

**WHITE**

**ALL**

**YOUR**