

Richardson Studies Education Anthologies

Language Study Tools

“Canst thou translate?” -Mosiah 8:11



By Nate Richardson



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Why Learn Languages



Joseph Smith: "Heber you learn that Hebrew vowel or I'll whip you!" Heber:
"Go ahead and whip"

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart." (Nelson Mandela)

–D&C 90:15: We are to be familiar with good books, languages, and cultures.

–President Ezra Taft Benson alluded to its (the Adamic language) possible universal reinstatement to resolve linguistic diversity (Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson [Salt Lake City, 1988], p. 93; cf. Brigham Young JD 3:100).

(http://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Adamic_Language)

– Zephaniah 3:9, possibly referring to the future of the Adamic language, says, "I will turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord." The word pure comes from the Hebrew berurah, from barar, "to cleanse" or purify; also "to choose."

(http://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Adamic_Language)

–"At home. Continued my studies. Oh, may God give me learning, even language; and imbue me with qualifications to magnify his name while I live" (Joseph Smith; History of the Church 2:344;)

–"I am determined to pursue the study of languages, until I shall become master of them, if I am permitted to live long enough" (Joseph Smith HC 2:396)

–"My soul delights in reading the word of the Lord in the original, and I am determined to pursue the study of the languages, until I shall be come master of them, if I am permitted to live long enough. At any rate, so long as I do live, I am determined to make this my object; and with the blessing of God, I shall succeed to my satisfaction." (Joseph Smith Journal February 17th, 1836)

- Many of the General Authorities, despite their many other duties, take the time to study foreign languages
- see book Life Everlasting page 210-212 etc. on how we need interpreters in the spirit world, and they are in short supply and high demand, and people can still only speak their native tongue in the spirit world, still having knowledge only from this life. There are accounts which show such in that text
- Joseph Smith said that if he had more time he would learn all the languages on this earth
- Hugh Nibley says we have a full-time job in exploring this world
- when you know nothing of other languages you know nothing of your own
- all are promised to hear the gospel in their own tongue, and we have promised to bring it to them
- there are few ways to express love more for another person than to speak to them in their language
- each nation has its own strengths, and to collect them all in yourself, it would be well to learn their tongue to speak with them
- many early Christian texts and a thousand years of history are kept in Latin
- many bible translations are ambiguous, and translators have chosen what they liked, but if we get acquainted with the gospel we can have even more power to have the spirit guide us in making more perfect translations of the scriptures.
- Brigham Young said that if a person can do so, he is under the obligation to render a more perfect translation of the bible
- Joseph Smith said that the languages in the world today all have fragments of the Adamic or perfect language, since it was split up at the time of the tower of babel.
- As we learn to speak more of the perfect language, we will have power to think in ways as never before, and express ourselves as never before, and without knowledge, no person can be saved, so the more we can speak and understand, the sooner we can get and give knowledge, hence the sooner we can be saved and save others.
- Elder Holland in Preach My Gospel says that missionaries should try to learn all aspects of their mission languages and maintain such throughout their lives
- knowing foreign tongues we can negotiate peace in time of war
- scripture and modern prophets say the times of the gentiles are ending and the times of the Jews are commencing. Who will preach them the gospel in their native tongue?
- Hugh Nibley says we have a full-time job learning about the history of this earth

-see also my missionary work essay "Give an answer to EVERY man".

You Can and Must Learn Languages

5.10.23

You were made to learn. You can, with some effort and investment of time, learn.

I recall when I was going over some Latin with a classmate. I had made a series of flashcards and drilled them. He came along with me on a walk to do some drilling, and he expressed how it was that I was getting the words down. I think that he had not studied them as much as I have.

Naturally to some there are proclivities wherein certain subjects come more easily; some are even more physically inclined, others more auditorily, or socially, or to reading. But we can all apply ourselves to important things in life, and enjoy the richness of knowledge and the wisdom it can yield for all who apply unto it.

Surely one of the most oft repeated and effective lies of the adversary is that we "can't" learn something. That mental (and spiritual) block keeps us from even getting started. Well has it been said that "I can't" is a phrase said by those who don't try.

It is a blessing of life which God knows we can attain to learn, and learn deeply and well, with great effect and usefulness and richness. Fear nothing, only believe.

And why must we learn them? To communicate with others, to read texts, modern and ancient. To know our religion, to know our brethren, to bring all into one eternal round of truth.

[The Gift of Tongues by Ogden kraut – Book Highlights](#)
(also in the faith and missionary books)

<https://youtu.be/PK5xjR3YLmM>

(Many of these are quotes not just Kraut speaking)

When someone says something mean to you respond by silence it is the most powerful reply

The Latter-Day saints should be known as a people of excellent linguists as this is the spiritual gift promised to us

Anyone with the spirit of God can gain the gift of tongues

The many languages is a curse and it will be lifted

On the day of Pentecost they spoke in tongues they had not first learned

Brigham Young had the gift of tongues to speak to the Indians and this prevented much strife

Brigham said it is better to feed the Indians than to fight them

Joseph spoke the language of Adam and said that we will speak that language in Zion Brigham also spoke this language

Brigham and Heber Kimball could speak in the gift of tongues whenever they please but Joseph did caution against the overuse of it and that doctrine would not be taught in it

One young woman was about to be stolen by Indians and some of their company killed they were afraid she prayed and then she rose up with great joy and prophesied and spoken tongues in the native language of the Indians telling them that they were wicked in their desires to kill and steal and that they weren't the only strangers people driven from their lands that we were too and that this land does not belong to them it all belongs to the great spirit and that the great spirit is watching them and will kill them if they harm them and they shared some food with the Indians and the Indians shook their hands and left

them alone

When constraints to speak by the gift of tongues a person should do it where they will offend the spirit

If there's no interpreter don't use the gift of tongues except in private and to God

Never use the gift of tongues for a sign to people and don't call a congregation together to hear you speak in tongues

Using the gift of tongues can bring you comfort

Various prophecies and promises have been made with the gift of tongues

Heber (Grant's) mother had prophesied of Heber becoming an apostle in the church

When someone speaks in tongues another person will be impressed with the interpretation of that and they must stand and give it

One occasion is reported where someone new that someone in the congregation needed to stand and prophesy and called out for them to do it and eventually the person did it

An account is related on one who gave a very spirited and lengthy discourse by the gift of tongues then another stood and had the interpretation of it

When Faith is low the gifts of the Spirit Will be Low

Joseph said gifts of the Spirit are food for our spirits and we need them

Accounts are shared of women speaking in tongues

Note this is like what Brigham said that prophecy is not in office it's a gift and that Eliza snow had it etc. and as I recall Eliza snow spoken tongues as well

An account is shared of one who spoke in an Indian tongue to an Indian telling him to get baptized which he straightway did

And account is shared where two people of different languages converse freely

An account is shared of a Hebrew scholar hearing a young simple person speak perfect Hebrew and that person was speaking in tongues and was not able to converse in Hebrew with the scholar after this and did not even know what they said and it was assigned to The scholar

One young missionary was set apart that he would have the gift of tongues for his mission language he arrived to his mission I think it was Samoa he did not understand anything the people were saying he was then to get up and bear his testimony and he did so for 15 minutes and the perfect language of the people from that point on this young missionary was able to understand perfectly and speak perfectly the language

One young missionary they're trying to learn Dutch only knew a few sentences but when he had to bear his testimony he was able to do that fluently and understand what the person was saying that he was talking to later the gift left then when he was called on to speak he was able to speak fluent Dutch again

Note I remember on my mission with my first companion he was surprised that I could speak the language and so was I

There's been a lot of cases of people in various denominations who think they can just go without any study and have a gift of tongue to a foreign land and they always fail

Only those who keep the gospel by repenting and being baptized into Christ Church have the right to the Holy Ghost and gift of tongues

There was an unusual exception case as seen in the New Testament and it was rare and for a specific purpose

Songs sang in tongues, at times in the language of Adam.

One person had the gift of tongues but would not use it so it was taken from him and given to someone else

One pair of missionaries who could not speak Dutch went into a home the woman could understand English and the husband could not but then the husband spoke to them and the missionaries understood they replied in English and he understood and when the Dutchman spoke to one of the missionaries that missionary understood and the other did not and when the Dutchman spoke to the other missionary that missionary understood in the other did not

One group of pioneers needed instructions about a difficult journey they were about to make and later only spoke English but they understood his instructions at that moment of urgency

Sometimes a person will get the gift of tongues and speak and then the interpretation comes to them and they say the interpretation

Note I remember a recent account of an apostle speaking and the translator wasn't all that good but someone in the congregation helps the translator and afterwards come to find out that person in the congregation didn't even speak English but they still understood the apostle speak English and were able to help with the translation

Sometimes the devil gives people the gift of tongues and they say all men are foul things in that language

One time somebody spoke Chinese this way and someone present who understood Chinese supported that it was very foul

Heber Kimball's 2nd wife had MANY spiritual gifts and experiences, prophecy, tongues, many things (note this is evidence she wasn't living in sin, righteous authorized polygamy isn't sinful, it brings a person closer to God and Gods gifts!)

By the second century gifts no longer continued in the church due to the apostasy

Where the gifts are not the kingdom is not

These gifts are how the saints become perfected

Speaks of one who walked 7 miles to church regularly

When speaking in tongues you might not know what you're saying, others might.

One case this happened in church, the man confessed his sins and didn't know it, others did know it.

It's sin to dance among the wicked

If you don't have gifts of the spirit go look for the gospel because you don't have it

As with the early Christian church so with the LDS church, at first they had many gifts of the spirit, then they dwindled due to the dwindling faith (Note this is strong evidence that we are NOT as righteous as the early church members!)

Spirits can speak many ideas at once
Says Orson Pratt

LDS Church/Missionary Resources for Language Learning

-New church app "Embark", free to church members (I don't think it's available without a church account). This is a brilliant tool with pronunciation audio, key missionary phrases, many different languages, etc. There are also MTC booklets for sale in the Deseret Book store (https://deseretbook.com/t/author/missionary-training-center?nav_source=producer_list) with these materials in a printed version, a very useful tool in combination with the app which has audio features and memorization games.

-The church "Gospel Library" app also is very helpful, any language can be selected, and many of these have scripture audio reading features. One could use an English text to compare with the foreign text when a paper copy of the foreign

text isn't available. The media version of the foreign text can be particularly useful as an audio reading of it in good accent is available.

-MTC Language Manuals: This is a most excellent resource for language learning.

https://deseretbook.com/t/author/missionary-training-center?nav_source=producer_list

Language Learning: Strategies & Resources

-**scriptures** are a great source for learning another language as you can compare verses side by side, and a divine wind will blow behind your back helping you as you make priority on God's word.

-**Interlinear audio** books are excellent but hard to find.

-**interlinear text** books are also hard to find but not as hard as finding interlinear audio. You can just buy a book in another language and hold it side to side with the English version, this is particularly accessible via scriptures.

-**movies** in foreign languages helps you see the real speed they speak, etc.

-**grammar charts** ("Rosetta Stones" I call them; compact guides) posted in the home/school room or laminated for frequent access have always helped me. Memorize these for stage 1 of learning, but practice translating without one after that. Make the grammar chart understandable to you even if that means you recreate it.

-**Quizlet** is an electronic flash card program (for free) where you can build decks of your own or use those of others, and even print them in table or flashcard format.

-**teach English** to foreigners. You don't need to be fluent in the foreign language to teach the foreigners your native language. With aids of pictures and gestures you could even get away with knowing nothing of their language but you should be working on learning theirs as you teach them yours.

-**Apps:** Duilingo, Mondly, Babel, etc. Comparisons:

<https://www.languagecourse.net/mobile/comparison>

- Bahador Alast's YouTube channel has side by side speaking 2 languages comparing similar ones.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCupKOOmfBOhdwhBLYjYH4RQ>

-Langfocus is an excellent YouTube channel on history and grammar of languages <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNhX3WQEkraW3VHPyup8jkQ>

-Teen polyglot challenge videos

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PolyglotPal/videos>

-Breaking the language barrier | Tim Doner | TEDxTeen 2014; speaks of learning languages not by keeping careful detail of numbers of languages but enjoying studying languages, and they why of learning them, not just as a cheap trick.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNmf-G81Irs>

-Teen (Tim Doner) speaks 20 languages:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Km9-DiFaxpU>

- Miles V Van Pelt – language books and flashcards

Language Learning: Side by Side Scripture Verse

Elder Groberg when on a mission sat and read The Book of Mormon in his native tongue of English with the book of his foreign language mission side by side for several days. After this he was able to speak fluently. He read both texts out loud.

I believe God gives the gift of tongues, particularly when we use The Book of Mormon. This book is for our day! Doing this with the bible is also an amazing experience. Reading scripture verses side by side helps the reader to become familiar with language in action, rather than just obscure words, phrases, and rules.

You can get the gist of how to use and speak a language even before you understand all of how to write it, or how all of the grammar rules work. This is like how we learn to speak before we learn to read and write. A fixation on rules can be frustrating, and this verse by verse approach

Language Learning: Audio Tools

Audio interlinears are hard to find, but worth their weight in gold. Usually all that is available in this venue are audio recordings repeating a few words over and again. They don't hold water compared to an audio interlinear book.

If you have a working knowledge of how to pronounce words in the new language, you can record your own interlinear materials. Repetition and auditorily so are key.

Interlinear Any Language Scripture Phone Idea

The gospel library app reads scripture in any language, use it to become familiar with pronunciation of the foreign language.

Either use 2 phones, one with the native language the other the foreign language,

or have a paper book for the native language,

or use one of those phones with 2 screens which show 2 apps at once.

Book Description: Accelerated Fluency - Polygot Practice: using the methods of hyper-polygots to learn a language

Rick Dearman: Accelerated Fluency - Polygot Practice: using the methods of hyper-polygots to learn a language:

The Amazon description:

methodologies recommended by polyglots, and hyper-polyglots world-wide, which are: 1. Intensive Reading 2. Shadowing 3. Transcription.

In order to gain advanced fluency in a language you need to train the muscle memory of your speaking organs. To be fluent in another language you need exposure to the word patterns of that language. Finally you need to become comfortable with the pattern of sentences. Fluent speakers don't think about the grammar rules whenever they talk, they just mimic the countless correct sentences they have encountered and spoken before. All of these things are accomplished by constant exposure and repetition and all of them are included in the principles of this book.

Language Apps

Anki flashcards are still around, there is an app. free. I've used them before and quite liked it, but it's been a long time. If they've stayed the same, it's very plain format, minimal distractions and nonsense.

Quizlet. Free, but about 1/mo gets rid of adds, adds night mode, and ability to put pictures into your cards. Used to be able to print these cards but that feature is apparently discontinued.

I'm not a fan of **Quizzex or Kahoot**, they are too flashy and noisy and gameshow-like. Kahoot does have a good multiplayer feature however.

I've heard of one called **TinyCards** but haven't used it.

Beelingua uses audiobooks and texts to learn, but no Hebrew. Does have Arabic, Hindi, etc.

free ones <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/free-language-apps/>

Good review of many, shows prices, methods, etc.

<https://www.langoly.com/language-learning-apps/>

Netflix chrome browser extension for language learning including side dictionary of unfamiliar terms

I'm not a fan of **DuoLingo's** "inclusive" philosophy of promoting homosexuality in their program, so I avoid that program.

Note: any Egyptian hieroglyphs? I can't find any

Note: check your city (and state access) **libraries** for language program access.

In Utah, any resident can get a Murray library card, which comes with access to Rosetta Stone.

Mondly:

48 Monthly for 1 language only

or 100 For Life payment for all languages ("discount" price)

41 Languages

Real images and people, not cartoons

Can click on verb for conjugations

Lessons by topic, including 3 grammar lessons

Key langs: Hebrew Greek Arabic Latin

Can toggle between transliteration & foreign script

Available on desktop or app

Speech recognition

Short lessons

Real conversation

App or desktop

?? only allows learn 1 lang at a time?

7 day free trial

by Pearson

??? use on multiple devices at once?

Rosetta stone:

\$180 lifetime

few (25) languages

(all langs in the lifetime package?)

No placement test

Can be repetitive

Not for advanced, just beginner or intermediate

Speech recognition

?? mult langs at once?

3 day trial

Embark:

Free to church members

Focuses on missionary related language

Can change selected language, but likely clears 'progress'

Babbel:

Few languages

lifetime subscription is for all languages

Challenging

Poor layout

Amount of content varies per language

Podcasts

Games

Drops

Mango

All langs is about 18/mo

Access Chapter Vocabulary lists to study words from the course

Expand your knowledge with curated Supplemental Vocabulary lists

Choose your own adventure by creating custom lists in My Vocabulary

TONS of languages, including variations of languages, like Egyptian Arabic (not heirglyph), shakespeare eng, ancient greek, mod greek, bib heb, mod heb

Lots of talking

Color codes words showing word order appearing in the English sentence structure vs the foreign.

Shows transliteration when hovering over a word

Frequent grammar notes in lessons

Pimsleur

speaking but not read or write



- **Best Language Learning App Overall:** [Babbel](#)
- **Best App for Learning a Language From Real Native Speakers:** [Memrise](#)
- **Best Free Language Lessons:** [Duolingo](#)
- **Best App Learning Accurate Pronunciation:** [Mondly](#)
- **Best Language Learning App for Mastering Real-Life Conversations:** [Speakly](#)
- **Best Language App for Learning Through Music:** [Lirica](#)
- **Best Language App for Learning on the Go:** [Pimsleur](#)
- **Best Language Learning App for Comparing Side-By-Side with Your Native Language:** [Beelinguapp](#)
- **Best Language App for Learning by Sound:** [Rosetta Stone](#)
- **Best Language App for Learning Through Games:** [QLango](#)



Duolingo: Morally Corrupt Pro-Homosexual Language Program

Duolingo has prided itself in promoting homosexuality in their program, and it is outright blatant about that in its press and its programs.

Here are some other subliminal messages from the program which I've seen from some students who use the program:

The female characters have extreme hair dues and sassy attitudes.

The male characters have gay outfits.

An eastern man is portrayed, and an eastern woman, which is fine, but no western man or woman.

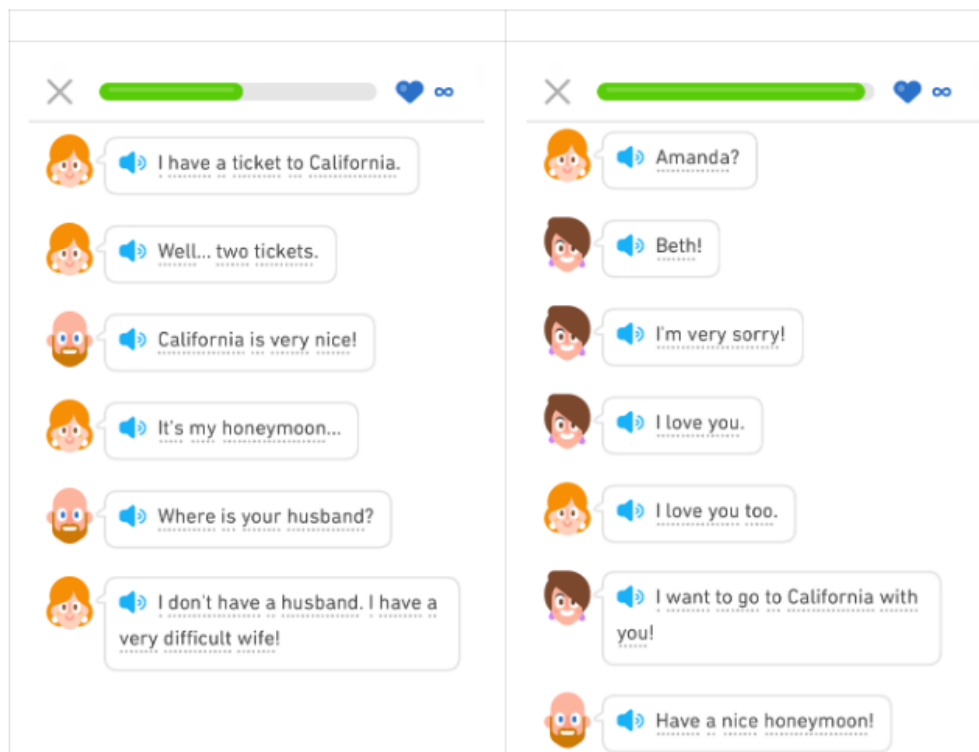
Rather than featuring a typical western man, a large grumpy bear is featured for the men's voice.

Sentences used for learning involve non-traditional gender roles, and anti-male roes. Like "the woman is in the city but the man is in the home" or "the woman is in the city but the boy is asleep" or sentences which could be, in light of the other strange things, scandalous, like "where does Marcos sleep?"

Are these the characters and messages we want our kids seeing for hours and hours, the long hard haul to learn a language saturated with corrupt social messages?

Here is from one of their pages boasting about their homosexual agendas:

Allowing an LGBTQ character to exist without specifically drawing attention to that identity -- this is something we believe should be a best practice in storytelling. In order to normalize something, you simply present it as **normal**, which means you don't draw attention to it when depicting it.



We have three established queer characters: Lin, Bea, and Oscar. Lin dates women, Bea dates both men and women, and Oscar's into men (although he's as discerning with men as he is with his cheeses and pretty much everything else).



Never having been on time, Lin's never held down a full time job. That's fine with her because she's been crashing at her grandmother's apartment for a few years now, and she'd be happy to stay forever. It allows her the freedom to watch true crime series until 3AM and cruise on her motorcycle when she wakes up at 3PM. She dates sometimes, but only when it happens to fit into her busy schedule.



On the other hand, Lin's best friend, Bea, pencils down everything in her planner -- dates (check out the story, "Bea's Date"!), detailed vacation plans (down to the hour), and even alone time. Adventurous and capable, she's always trying new things, which serves her well as a travel blogger and aspiring writer. The epitome of lawful good, she's driven by what's right and loves to "help," even if you might not think you need it. Is she a control freak? No -- Bea's just always right.



Oscar is a high school art teacher. He may not have imagined teaching as his calling, but he takes his charge of shaping young artists seriously. He spends his free time painting in his studio and dreaming of the day he and his work will be rightfully recognized. Until then, he languishes as the only person in town who knows the difference between an americano and a long black.

[LGBTQIA+ representation in Duolingo Stories and characters](#)

Boycott this company, do not use this program! We do not wish to normalize this corruption! Love the sinner, but hate the sin! All of humanity are tempted to sin,

and we all sin. But the homosexual community is trying to make their sin into not-sin, and this is the worst evil: to deny evil itself. To take pride in a sinful lifestyle! To demand that others join in their praise of evil!

Foundational English Grammar Terms **Pending**

Tenses:

Declensions:

Dangling Participle:

Video of English bible versions family tree

<https://youtu.be/Zvre1MNat-8>