A STUDY OF THE TRANSLATION OF arsenokoitai IN 1CORINTHIANS 6:9-10 IN SOME GHANAIAN MOTHER-TONGUE BIBLES

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Abstract

In 1Cor. 6:9-10 Paul gives a warning to those who will not enter into the kingdom of God. Among them are the arsenokoitai. Who are they? Eighteen (18) of the southern Ghana mother-tongue translations of the text were studied. Fifteen (15) of them say the arsenokoitai are “men who have sexual relations with other men,” while two (2) say they are “men or women who have sexual relations with other men or women”; and one (1) say “men who arouse themselves sexually”. The study is limited in that it does not look at how the term is translated in the other Ghanaian translations, namely in Nzema, Sefwi, and some of the northern languages into which the full Bible or the New Testament or portions of it has been translated. However, in the wake of media reportage about homosexual activities in Ghana, which of the three strands of the translation of arsenokoitai best fits the Ghanaian scene?
INTRODUCTION

The media in Ghana have reported news on homosexuality in Ghana since 2004. According to the *Afro News* report of August 19, 2004, Prince MacDonald, the leader of the organization for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transsexuals in Ghana, says the British law forbidding these activities were criminal, and they were making every effort to fight against it. On September 1, 2006, the British Broadcasting Corporation reported that the Ghanaian government had banned a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual conference that was alleged to be taking place on September 4, at the Accra International Conference Centre and at a venue in the city of Koforidua. In an interview, the then Minister of Communication said:

> The government does not condone any such activity which violently offends the culture, morality and heritage of the entire people of Ghana. Supporting such a conference, or even allowing it, will encourage that tendency which the law forbids. Government would like to make it absolutely clear that it shall not permit the proposed conference anywhere in Ghana. Unnatural carnal knowledge is illegal under our criminal code. Homosexuality, lesbianism and bestiality are therefore offences under the laws in Ghana.¹

In May 2010 an HIV/AIDS training workshop was held in Takoradi for health-care workers. After the workshop, the *Daily Graphic* reported that 8,000 gay persons had been “registered” in the Western and Central Regions. However, experts in the field denied that there had been any such “registration”. Following the workshop there was significant negative reporting in the media about homosexuality. In June 2010, the *Daily Graphic* reported an interview with, Paul Evan Aidoo, the then Western Regional Minister who called on government to take steps to combat homosexuality.² On July 2011, Western Regional Minister was reported to have ordered

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¹ This news was written by Mark S. Luckie, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_night_in_Ghana, accessed 12/12/12. The author indicated that the conference eventually appeared to be a hoax.

all gay people in the region to be rounded up and arrested. He called on landlords and tenants to give information on people they suspected of being gay — males or females who indulge in same-sexual activities.

In February 2012, the late President John Evans Atta Mills reiterated the Ghana government’s stance on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual (LGBT) rights when he stated in a reaction to the pressure from the international community. He said, “We have made our positions well known. Ghanaian societies frown on homosexuality…if the people’s interest is that we do not legalise homosexuality, I don’t see how any responsible leader will decide to go against the wishes of his people”. All these media reports show that there are same-sex activities in Ghana. Christians and non-Christians may be involved. One of the New Testament texts that refer to same-sex activities is 1Corinthians 6:9-10. According to the text, those who involve in such a practice among others will not inherit the kingdom of God. The term arsenokoitai is used in the Greek text but has been translated variedly in the English versions of the Bible. For example, the King James Version (KJV, 1611) render arsenokoitai as “abusers of themselves with mankind; Revised Standard Version (RSV, 1952) as, “sexual perverts”; New Revised Standard Version (NRSV, 1989) as “male prostitutes”; New International Version (NIV, 1984) as “male prostitutes or homosexual offenders”; Amplified Bible (AB, 1987) as, “those who participate in

3 “Ghana cracks down on gays”, Star Online, 21 July 2011.
homosexuality”; English Standard Version (ESV, 2001) as “men who practice homosexuality”; New Living Translation (NLT, 2004) has rendered it as “male prostitutes, homosexuals”. While these translations are not disputed that arsenokoit...s (singular) arsenokoitai (plural) concerns sexual relations some scholars interpret it as a prohibition against pederasty or prostitution rather than homosexuality, and others have presented counter arguments.\(^6\) What does arsenokoitai in 1Corinthians 6:9-10 mean? How is it translated in some of the Ghanaian mother-tongue Bibles? What translation Bible philosophy was used the translation of arsenokoitai? What hermeneutical insights can we gather from the way arsenokoitai has been translated in some of the Ghanaian mother-tongue Bibles?

**METHODOLOGY**

The study used the exegetical method - a careful systematic study of Scripture to discover the original, intended meaning - to find out the meaning of arsenokoitai in 1Corinthians 6:9-10. Gordon Fee outlines eight basic rules for New Testament exegesis: Survey the historical context in general; confirm the limits of the passage; become thoroughly acquainted with your paragraph or periscope; analyse sentence structures and syntactical relationships; establish the text; analyse significant words; research the historical-cultural background.\(^7\)

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The text was studied in the *Nestle-Aland Greek-English New Testament* and the *William D. Mounce’s Reverse Interlinear for New Testament Word Studies*. Even though the *Nestle-Aland Greek-English New Testament* is also a translation, it is considered by scholars to be the nearest in terms of accuracy. It is a critical edition of the Greek New Testament that contains not just a copy of any one manuscript, but a textual compilation of modern textual scholarship. In other words, the text is a representative of a majority consensus. A literal translation of *arsenokoitai* from the Greek text was compared with eighteen (18) Ghanaian southern mother-tongue translations of the Bible to find out similarities and differences.

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

1 Corinthians 6:9-10, the Greek text

"H ouvk oi;date o[ti a;dikoi qeou/ basilei,an ouv klhronomh,sousinÈ mh. plana/sqe\ ou;te po,rnoi ou;te eivdwlola,trait ou;te moicoi. ou;te malakoï. ou;te avrsenokoi/taï 10 ou;te kle,ptai ou;te pleone,ktai( ouv me,qusoi( ouv loi,doroi( ouvc a[rpagej basilei,an qeou/ klhronomh,sousinÄ

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10 Bible translations into Ghanaian mother-tongues have been done mainly by the Bible Society of Ghana (BSG), International Bible Society (IBS) and Ghana Institute of Linguistics Literacy and Bible Translation (GILLBT). The BSG Bible has translated the Bible into eight Ghanaian languages – Asante-Twi, Akuapem-Twi, Gà, Mfante, Ewe, Dangme, Dagbani, Esahie and Nzema. The New Testament has been translated into Esahie and Dagaare. The Old Testament translation projects in these languages are ongoing. The Ga, Ewe, Akuapem-Twi and Asante-Twi older versions have been revised and published. Translation of the Bible into Gruni is starting soon (www.biblesociety-ghana.org/what-we-do; accessed 13/12/12. The IBS has translated the Bible into Ewe, and the New Testament into Akuapem-Twi, Asante-Twi and Dangme. The GILLBT has translated and published the Bible in five Northern Ghana mother-tongues – Konkomba, Tamulema, Bimoba, Farefare and Chumburung. It has also translated and published the New Testament in twenty-five languages. http://www.gillbt.org; accessed 13/12/12.
Meaning of arsenokoitai and its usage in 1Corinthians 6:1-10

The study is not on the whole text but on the translation of the word arsenokoitai in the text. Arsenokoitai (singular) is a noun made up of two words, ars “male” and koi “sexual intercourse”. It means a male who has sexual intercourse with a male. The term occurs only in 1Corinthians 6:9-10 and in a similar list in 1Timothy 1:9-10. Colin Brown says that Paul’s use of ars [in connection with sexual intercourse] is “interesting in that it exhibits a tension between the creation ordinances and their abolition in the gospel age. By contrast the ungodly have abolished the creation ordinances for sexual relations in a way which can only bring judgment”. Paul may have been drawing from the Septuagint translation of Leviticus 18:22: kai meta arsenos ou koim...th...s... koi...n gunaikos. bdelguma gar estin [And you shall not have sexual intercourse with a male as with a female. For it is unclean].

Boswell argues that arsenokoitai is a term specifically created by Paul, and that given its unusual nature, the fact that Paul did not use one of the more common pagan Greek terms, and given its direct reference to the Levitical laws, it is a matter of debate whether Paul was referring generally to any person having homosexual sex, or whether it refers to sex of any form. Other translators of the word, based on examinations of the context of its subsequent uses, include

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Martin who argues that *arsenokoit...s* means “homosexual slave trader”\(^{13}\) and Boswell (1980) who refers to it as “homosexual rape” or homosexual prostitutes.\(^{14}\) Scrogs perceives it as referring to exploitative pederasty.\(^{15}\)

The translations of *arsenokoitai* in 1Corinthians in some Ghanaian mother-tongue Bibles

**Ga**

(a) *Nnãle Kroŋkroŋ Lé* (The Full Bible in Ga, BSG/UBS, 1908)\(^{16}\)

> Ani nyelee ake aminyeloi anine ſen Nyorĩmo marĩseyeli le no? Nyekahaa alakaanye!

Adwanarišoloi, lo wondsaloï lo gblaŋkuaïloï lo mei ni ke amédiensë amehelo feo yakayakanii lo hii ni hii feo yakayakanii, lo dsuloï lo hiedsoloï lo datoloï lo mei-adgeloï lo aminyeloi anine ſen Nyorĩmo mantseyeli le no kwra. [Do you not know that evil doers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not deceive yourselves. The sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor those who arouse themselves sexually nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor insulters nor swindlers will never inherit the kingdom of God].

(b) *Âmalâ Krôâkrôâ Lâ* (The Full Bible in Ga, BSG, 2006)\(^{17}\)

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\(^{13}\) D. B. Martin, *Arsenokoit...s* and Malakos: Meanings and Consequences ([www.clgs.org/arsenokoit%C3%A9s-and](http://www.clgs.org/arsenokoit%C3%A9s-and) malakos-meanings-and consequences, accessed 16/12/12).

\(^{14}\) Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality*, 1980.


\(^{16}\) *Nnãle Kroŋkroŋ Lé*, Accra: Bible Society of Ghana/United Bible Societies, 1907.

Ani nyålee akå efɔाफeełåi anine shåå Nyôåmô maâtsåyeli lâ nö? Nyåkahåa alakaa nyå nyå! Ajwamaâbôlåi loo wôåjalåi loo gblååkulåi loo hii ni tsỳmôô amâhe yei hå

hii kromåi loo hii ni kå hii fe ô yakayaka nii, loo julåi loo hiåjoolåi loo dåatålåi loo mìâajålåi loo ojotswalåi anine shåå Nyôåmô maâtsåyeli lâ nò. [Do you not know that those who do evil things will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not let yourselves be deceived. The sexually immoral nor idolaters nor men who turn themselves into women for other men nor men who have sex with other men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor insulters nor swindlers will never inherit the kingdom of God].

Ewe

(a) Biblia (The Ewe Full Bible, BSG/UBS, 1930)¹⁸

Alo mienyae bena, ame madzõmadzõwo manyi mawufiaôuâne la ŋe dome oa? Migana woable mi o: Ahasiwôlawo kple trîsubôlawo kple matrewôlawo kple hadzelawo kple âutsu, siwo dôna kple âtsuwo, kple ahamulawo kple busubôlawo kple adzodalawo la womanyi mawufiaôuâne la ŋe do me o. [Or do you not know that the unjust people cannot inherit the kingdom of God? Do not let people deceive you: Adulterers, idol worshippers, fornicators, those who live uncontrollable lives, men who have sex with other men, fornicators, those who swear falsely, swindlers will not inherit the kingdom of God].

(b) Nubabra Yeye La (The Ewe New Testament, BSG, 1990)¹⁹

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¹⁸ Biblia, Bible Society of Ghana/United Bible Societies, 1930.
Do you not know that those who do the unjust thing cannot inherit the kingdom of God? Do not allow yourselves to be deceived!

People who do bad things nor idolaters nor fornicators nor women who have sex with other women nor men who have sex with other men nor thieves nor those who cannot control their lives nor drunkards nor insulters nor swindlers cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

(c) Agbenya La (The Living Word in Ewe, IBS, 2006)\textsuperscript{20}

Do you not know that those who do evil cannot inherit the kingdom of God? Do not allow yourselves to be deceived. Adulterers, idolaters, fornicators and men who have sex with other men, thieves and those who envy and drunkards, gossipers and cheats, cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

(d) Biblia (The Ewe Full Bible, BSG, 2010)\textsuperscript{21}

siwo dôna kple nyônuwo, alo âutsu siwo dôna kple âtsuwo, alo fiafiwo, alo âukl...lawo, alo ame siwo noa aha muna, alo ame siwo dzua ame, alo ame siwo daa adzo ame ñe nu la, manyi Mawu ñe fiaðuñe la dome akpô o.[Do you not know that those who do unjust things cannot inherit the kingdom of God? Do not allow yourselves to be deceived! Those who do bad things nor idol worshippers nor adulterers nor women who have sex with women nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor those who cannot control their lives nor insulters nor drunkards nor swindlers will never inherit the kingdom of God].

Fante

(a) Nwoma Krônkrôn (The Fante Full Bible, IBS/UBS, 1948)\textsuperscript{22}

Ana hom nnyim ña hôn a wônntsen rinnya Nyankopôn ahenman ayâ hôndze? Mma wônndaaddaa hom: ndwaman, nye abosonsôrfo, nye awartofo, nye mbaakowaa, nye mbarimba a wônye hônho da, nye ewifo, nye enyiberfo, nye asabokwafo, nye abônndzekoofo, nye apempensifo rinnya Nyankopôn ahenman no. [Do you not know that the unrighteous will not receive the kingdom of God? Do not allow yourselves to be deceived: harlots, and idolaters, and adulterers, and fornicators, and men who have sex with men, and thieves, and greedy people, and drunkards and litigants and sinners will not receive the kingdom of God].

(b) Ahyâmû Fofor No Mu Nwoma (The Fante New Testament, UBS, 1982)\textsuperscript{23}

Ana hom nnyim ña emumuyôfo nnkenya Nyankopôn Ahendzi no ayâ hôndze? Mma wônndaaddaa homho: ndwaman nye abosonsôrfo, nye awartofo, nye mbaa-akowaa, nyâ

\textsuperscript{22} Nwoma Krônkrôn, Accra: Bible Society of Ghana/United Bible Societies, 1948.
\textsuperscript{23} Ahyâmû Fofor No Mu Nwoma, Bungay, Suffolk: United Bible Societies, 1982.
mbanyin a wônye mbanyin da, nye ewifo, nye enyiberfo, nye asabokwafo, nye anokumfo, nye apempensifo nnkenya Nyankopôn Ahenedzi no. [Or do you not know that wicked people will not receive the kingdom of God? Do not deceive yourselves: prostitutes and idol worshippers, and adulterers, and men who have sex with men, and thieves, and drunkards, and greedy people, and gossips and litigants, will not receive the kingdom of God].

Akuapem-Twi

(a) Kyerâw Kronkron (Akuapem-Twi Full Bible, BSG/UBS, 1964)24

Anaasâ munnim sâ wôn a wônteâ no rennya Onyankopôn ahenni no? Mommma wônnaadaa mo, nguaman ne abosonsomfo ne awaresêfo ne ahodomfo ne mmarima a wône wôn ho da ne awifo ne aniberefo ne asabofo ne amaanefo ne amimfo rennya Onyankopôn ahenni no.[Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not receive the kingdom of God? Do not allow yourselves to be deceived. Prostitutes and idol worshippers and adulterers and men who have sex with men and thieves and envious people and drunkards and those who engineer quarrels and slanderers will not inherit the kingdom of God].

(b) Apam Foforo (Akuapem-Twi New Testament, BSG, 1976)25

Anaasâ munnim sâ wôn a wônteâ no rennya Onyankopôn ahenni no? Mommma wônnaadaa mo, nguaman ne abosonsomfo ne awaresêfo ne ahodomfo ne mmarima a wône wôn ho da ne awifo ne aniberefo ne asabofo ne amaanefo ne amimfo rennya Onyankopôn ahenni no. [Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not receive the

kingdom of God? Do not allow yourselves to be deceived. Prostitutes and idol worshippers and adulterers and men who have sex with men and thieves and envious people and drunkards and those who engineer quarrels and slanderers will not inherit the kingdom of God].


Mo ara munim sâ ðebõneyţfo no renkô Onyankopôn ahenni no mu. Munnsisi mo ho mo ho; mo a mo suban nye, anaa mo a mosom ahoni, anaa aguamammôfo, anaa mmarima a wône mmarima da, anaa asisifo, anaa aniberefo, anaa akôwensafô, anaa mo a mosêe afoforo din, anaa aniberefo, anaa akôrômfo no mu biara no rennya kyêfa biara wô Onyankopôn ahenni no mu. [You are aware that sinners will not enter into the Kingdom of God. Do not deceive yourselves, you who have bad character or worship idols or are prostitutes or men who have sex with men or cheats, or greedy or drunkards or destroy the character of others or thieves of all kinds will not receive the Kingdom of God].

(d) Kyerâw Kronkron (Akuapem-Twi Full Bible, BSG, 2012)²⁷

Anaasâ munnim sâ wôn a wônteâ no rennya Onyankopiôn ahenni no? Mommma wônnaadaa mo, nguaman ne abosonsomfo ne awaresêfo ne ahohwifo ne mmarima a wône wôn ho da ne awifo ne aniberefo ne asabofo ne amaanefo ne amimfo rennya Onyankopiôn ahenni no. [Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not receive the

kingdom of God? Do not allow yourselves to be deceived: prostitutes and idol worshippers and adulterers and **men who have sex with men** and thieves and envious people and drunkards and those who engineer quarrels and slanderers will not inherit the kingdom of God].

**Asante-Twi**

(a) *Twerâ Kronkron* (Asante-Twi Full Bible, 1964)\(^{28}\)

Anaase monnim sâ wôn a wôntene no rennya Nyankopôn ahennie no? Mommma wônnnaadâa mo: adwamamfoô ne abosonsomfoô ne awaresêefoô ne ahoхwifoô ne mmarima a wône mmarima da ne awiфoô ne aniberefoô ne asabofoô ne ntôkwapâfoô ne amimfoô rennya Nyankopôn ahennie no. [Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not receive the kingdom of God? Do not allow yourselves to be deceived: prostitutes and idol worshippers and adulterers and **men who have sex with men** and thieves and envious people and drunkards and those who engineer quarrels and slanderers will not inherit the kingdom of God].

(b) *Nkwa Asâm: Apam Fororô* (The Living Word New Testament in Asante-Twi, IBS, 1996)\(^{29}\)

Mo ara monim sâ ðebôneyfoô no renkô Onyankopôn Ahennie no mu. Monnsisi mo ho mo ho, mo a mo suban nyâ, anaa mo a mosom ahoni, anaa adwamammôfoô, anaammarima a wône mmarima da, anaa asisifoô, anaa aniberefoô, anaa akôwensafoô, anaa mo a mosâe afosorô din, anaa akorêmfoô no mu biara no nnya Onyankopôn Ahenni no. [You are aware that sinners will not enter into the Kingdom of

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Do not deceive yourselves, you who have bad character or worship idols or are prostitutes or **men who have sex with men** or cheats, or greedy or drunkards or destroy the character of others or thieves of all kinds will not receive the Kingdom of God.

(c) **Twerâ Kronkron (Asante-Twi Full Bible, 2012)**

Anaase monnim sâ wôn a wôntene no rennya Nyankopôn ahennie no? Mommma wônnnaadaa mo: Adwamammôfoô ne abosomsonfoô ne awaresôsefoô ne ahohwifoô ne **mmarima** a wône mmarima da ne awifoô ne aniberefoô ne asabofoô ne ntôkwapôsefoô ne amimfoô rennya Nyankopôn ahennie no. [Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not receive the kingdom of God? Do not allow yourselves to be deceived: prostitutes and idol worshippers and adulterers and **men who have sex with men** and thieves and envious people and drunkards and those who engineer quarrels and slanderers will not inherit the kingdom of God].

**Dangme**

(a) **Somi He ô (The New Testament in Dangme, BSG/UBS, 1977)**

Anâ nyâ li kaa yayami peeli a nine be Mawu matsâ yemi ô nô sue lo? Nyâ ko ha nâ a mlôô nyâ! Ajuama bôli loo wô jali loo gba puêli loo nyumuhi nâ kâ nyumuhi peô yakayakanî, loo juôhi loo hâ dooli loo da deli loo nô jeli loo amim yeli a nine be Mawu matsâ yemi ô nô sue kulaa. [Or do you not know that sinners will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not allow yourselves to be deceived. Adulterers nor idolaters, destroyers of marriages nor **men who have sex with men** nor thieves nor envious people nor drunkards nor insulters nor slanderers will not inherit the kingdom of God].

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(b) *Wami Munyu ô: Somi He ô kâ La amâ* (The Living New Testament in Dangme, IBS, 1997)\(^{32}\)

Anâ nyâ li kaa nihi nâ peeo ni nâ ômâ ô, a nine be Mawu Matsâyemi ô nô sue lo?
Nyâ ko sisi nyâ he! Yakayaka ni peeli nâ ji wô jali kâ ajuama bôli loo nyumuhi nâ kâ a nyâmì nyumuhi peeo yakayaka ni; kâ juli kâ hâ tsuli kâ da deli a nine be Hiîwe Matsâyemi ô nô sue. [Or do you not know that those who do wrong things will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not deceive yourselves! The sexual immoral who are idolaters and adulterers and *men who have sex with men* and thieves and envious people and drunkards will not inherit the Kingdom of God].

(c) *Ngmami Klôuklôu ô* (The Full Bible in Dangme, BSG/UBS, 1999)\(^ {33}\)

Anâ nyâ li kaa yayami peeli be blô nya ko ngâ Mawu matsè yemi ô mi lo? Nyâ ko sisi nyâ he! Yaholi, loo amaga jali, loo gba puâli, loo nyumuhi kâ yihi sôuu nâ kâ a sibi peeo yakayaka ni, loo juli, loo hâ tsuli, loo dâ toil, loo nihi a biâ puâli, loo ojo fiali a nine be Mawu matsâ yemi ô nô sue kôkôkô. [Or do you not know that those who do wrong things will not receive the Kingdom of God? Do not deceive yourselves! The sexual immoral, idolaters, adulterers, or *men who have sex with men or women who have sex with women*, thieves, envious people, drunkards, slanderers, swindlers will not receive the kingdom of God].


Analysis of the translation of arsenokoitai in 1Corinthians in the mother-tongue Bibles


The Nmâle Kronkron Le (The Full Bible in Ga, BSG/UBS, 1908) translate arsenokoitai as mei ni ke amedientse amehelo feo yakayakanii “men who arouse themselves sexually”. The Nubabra
Yeye La (The Ewe New Testament, BSG, 1990), nyônu siwo dôna kple nyônuwo, alo ãutsu siwo dôna kple ãtsuwo, Biblia (The Ewe Full Bible, BSG, 2010), nyônu siwo dôna kple nyônuwo, alo ãutsu siwo dôna kple ãtsuwo; Ngmami Klôuklôu ã (The Full Bible in Dangme, BSG/UBS, 1999), nyumuhi ká yihì sôuu ná ká a sibi peeô yakayaka ni. The two Ewe and one Dangme versions’ rendering of arsenokoitai mean “men who have sex with men or women who have sex with women”.

All the mother-tongue Bibles that translate arsenokoitai as “men who have sex with men” have used the formal equivalence or word-for-word translation approach in rendering the term. This is a Bible translation principle that attempts to reproduce the Greek and Hebrew as exactly as possible into English. Words, figures of speech, and sometimes even the sentence structure of the original languages are reproduced. This is an impossible task since translation is not a matter of finding word equivalents in another language, because languages seldom correspond at the same level.

The translations that render arsenokoitai as “men who arouse themselves sexually”, and “men who have sex with men or women who have sex with women” have gone beyond the Greek text to include reality on the ground. In that sense, they have used Eugene Nida’s dynamic

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34 For a discussion see J. Van der Watt, “What happens when one picks up the Greek text?” Acta Theologica Supplementum (2) 2002 :246-265.
equivalence principle of Bible translation plus Justin Ukpong’s inculturation hermeneutics to expand the original meaning of *arsenokoitai*, to make a very important point that there are men (and also women) in the Bible reading communities in Ghana who arouse themselves sexually; and also that same-sex relations are going on in Ghana; and that males and females respectively are involved. The expanded translation of *arsenokoitai* in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 by these versions of the New Testament has unearthed some secret and shameful sexual practices of some people in Ghana which people find it difficult to talk about openly in churches. These translations have made a point; these practices are happening; the Bible is against it; we must talk about them; they do not glorify God; those who practise such acts are among those who cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

CONCLUSION

36 The Dynamic equivalence or thought-for-thought translation approach (Nida, 1964, 1969; Nida and Taber, 1982), is a principle based on the assumption that any message can be communicated to any audience in any language provided that the most effective form of expression is found. Thus Greek and Hebrew figures of speech are replaced with modern rough equivalents. For a discussion see (1) E. A. Nida, *Towards a Science of Translating*. Leiden: Brill, 1964/2003; (2) ------“The paradoxes of translation.” *The Bible Translator*. 42 (2a) 1991:5-25; E. A. Nida, & C. R. Taber, *The Theory and Practice of Translation*, Leiden: Brill, 1969/1982.

37 This methodology is a social-critical critique whereby the Bible is read to uncover those texts that could be used to legitimate exclusion in society. It has two main tasks: First, appraising the cultural-human dimension of the Bible in respect to its attitude to, and evaluation of, “other” peoples and cultures. It focuses on a critical reading of the Bible in the light of the basic human and biblical values of love and respect for others, community building, justice, peace and inclusiveness. The purpose is to bring to light such exclusive texts to avoid unconsciously absorbing them as normative, and adopting them as a basis for action; and to view them as challenging us with respect to these values. The other task is reading the Bible to appropriate its message in today’s context. In that regard, the biblical text is read against the background of the social-cultural-historical situation reflected in it. For a discussion see (1) Justin S. Ukpong, “Inculturation and Evangelization: Biblical Foundations for Inculturation, *Vidyajyoti* 58, 1994a: 298-307; (2) ------“Towards a Renewed Approach to Inculturation Theology”, *Journal of Inculturation Theology* 1, 1994b: 3-15; ------“Reading the Bible with African Eyes: Inculturation and Hermeneutics”, *Journal of Theology for South Africa* 91, 1995: 3-14.
We have discussed the meaning, translation and interpretations of *arsenokoitai* in eighteen (18) Ghanaian mother-tongue translations of 1Corinthians 6:9-10. Fifteen (15) of the translations render the word as “men who have sex with men”. Two (2) render it as “men who have sex with men or women who have sex with women”; and one (1) as “men who arouse themselves sexually”. In the light of media reports of homosexual activities in Ghana, which of these three translations best describe the situation on the ground?

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