

Summary of The Jula Project with TBTA

Randy Groff and I developed a Jula lexicon and grammar sufficient to generate the Grammar Introduction and the biblical book of Nahum. We then performed three sets of experiments to determine the quality of the generated draft of Nahum. The first set of experiments indicated that when experienced mother-tongue translators use the draft generated by TBTA, their productivity is approximately tripled. The second set of experiments indicated that the edited computer drafts are of the same quality as manually translated texts. The third set of experiments indicated that the computer generated draft has the same semantic content as the original text. The results of these three sets of experiments indicate that the Jula draft of Nahum generated by TBTA was easily understandable, grammatically correct, semantically equivalent to the original document, and of sufficient quality that it significantly improved the productivity of experienced mother-tongue translators.

1. Introduction

Randy Groff is a member of Wycliffe Bible Translators and was one of two linguist missionaries who worked on the Jula New Testament translation project. Jula is a Mande language in the Niger-Congo family spoken by approximately 1.2 million people in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, and Mali. Randy and I met approximately 20 times between mid June and mid September of 2000 in order to work through the Grammar Introduction. Each meeting lasted approximately two hours. In mid September we began working through the book of Nahum and we needed approximately 20 more sessions to complete that book. The graph in Figure 1 below shows that the number of new grammatical rules required for each chapter of text rapidly decreased.

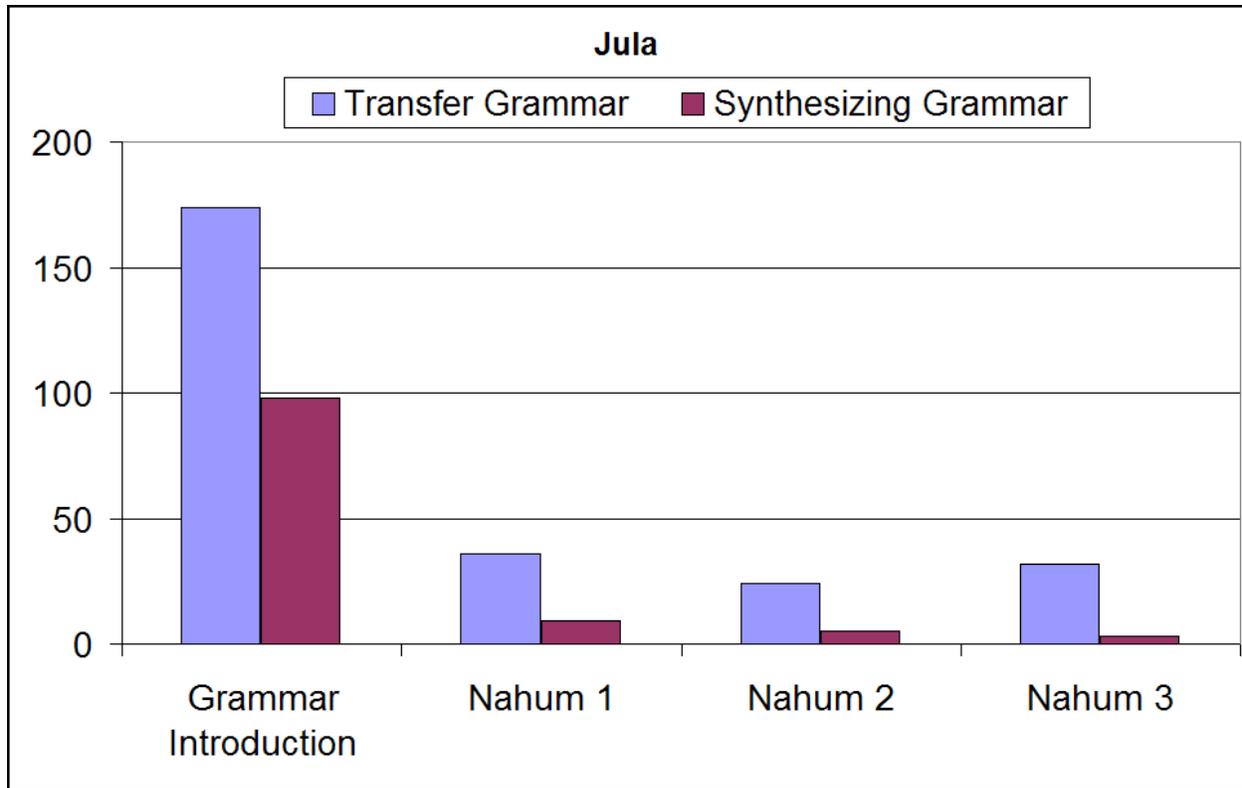


Figure 1. Graph Showing the Number of New Rules Required for each Chapter of Text

After generating the draft of Nahum, we sent it to an SIL colleague who was working in Mali with Jula speakers. That colleague performed three sets of experiments. The first set of experiments tested whether or not the draft generated by TBTA increased the productivity of experienced mother-tongue Jula translators. The second set of experiments compared the quality of the edited computer drafts with the quality of manually translated texts. The final set of experiments tested the semantic content of the computer generated draft.

2) Test for Increased Productivity

In order to determine whether or not the Jula draft generated by TBTA improves the productivity of experienced mother-tongue translators, seven Jula translators who live in Mali were asked to participate in an experiment. The first participant, listed as Participant #1 in Table 1 below, received formal translation training through a course taught by SIL. That participant was also involved as a reviewer for the Jula Old Testament translation project. Participants #2 and #3 in Table 1 below helped translate the Jesus film from French into Jula. These three participants also wrote Jula scripts for a Jula radio station, and then translated their scripts into French so that they could be checked by a consultant. Participants #4 through #7 listed in Table 1 regularly translate sermons from French into Jula orally during church services. Those four participants had very little experience translating written materials prior to this experiment. The educational levels of these seven participants vary greatly, as do their areas of expertise. These seven individuals each agreed to participate in this experiment and were

paid for their work. In this experiment the Jula draft of Nahum generated by TBTA was divided in half¹, and three of the translators were asked to translate the first half of Nahum from French into Jula, and then edit the second half of the computer generated Jula draft. The other four translators were asked to edit the first half of the computer generated draft, and then translate the second half from French into Jula. All seven of the translators were asked to produce presentable first drafts, and they were told that they would be timed during each of the two tasks. They were also told that they should not consult any other resources while translating or editing. When translating from French into Jula, each participant used La Bible en Français Courant. The results of this experiment are listed below in Table 1.

At about the same time that these experiments were being performed in Mali, a similar experiment was performed in Dallas, Texas with a student who was attending the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics. That student is listed as Participant #8 in Table 1 below. Participant #8 is from Mali and his first language is Bambara. Bambara is very closely related to Jula, so this student was considered a good candidate for this experiment. Participant #8 completed a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology at Trinity Seminary in the late 1990s, and has been working as a translation consultant for the United Bible Society in Mali since that time. He is currently overseeing three of their translation projects and he is also the pastor of a church in Mali. Due to his background in theology and his work as a translation consultant, he has a great deal of experience translating French into Bambara and Bambara into French. Randy Groff became acquainted with this student, so Randy asked him to participate in this experiment. On September 2nd, 2002, this man was shown a draft of a short Jula discourse generated by TBTA so that he could see the special characters used for the Jula text and get a sense of what to expect from the computer. He read the short story in both Jula and English, comparing them paragraph by paragraph, and indicated that they were both easily understandable. The two steps of the experiment were then described to him. The first step consisted of editing the first half of the Jula draft of Nahum that had been generated by TBTA, and making it a presentable first draft. The second step consisted of translating the second half of Nahum from his French Bible into Bambara, again producing a presentable first draft. He was told that during these two steps he did not need to consult any other sources. He was also told that he would be timed during the two parts of this experiment. After a brief discussion, he began the experiment. He spent 24 minutes editing the TBTA draft of Nahum 1:1 through 2:10. Then, after a short break, he began translating Nahum 2:11 through 3:19 from his French Bible into Bambara. He spent one hour and five minutes producing a presentable first draft. The results of this experiment and the experiments that were performed in Mali are summarized below in Table 1.

Table 1. Ratios of Time spent Editing to Time spent Translating

Translator		Editing Time	Translating Time	Ratio
Participant #1	edited Nahum 1:1 - 2:10, translated Nahum 2:11 - 3:19	51 minutes	89 minutes	1.7:1
Participant #2	edited Nahum 1:1 - 2:10,	56 minutes	132 minutes	2.4:1

¹ The mid point of Nahum was determined by using the Word Count tool in Microsoft Word to count the words in the computer generated Jula draft of Nahum. There are 1,616 words in the computer generated Jula draft of Nahum, and there are 816 words in the computer generated Jula draft of Nahum 1:1 through 2:10.

	translated Nahum 2:11 - 3:19			
Participant #3	translated Nahum 1:1 - 2:10, edited Nahum 2:11 - 3:19	40 minutes	150 minutes	3.8:1
Participant #4	edited Nahum 1:1 - 2:10, translated Nahum 2:11 - 3:19	70 minutes	145 minutes	2.1:1
Participant #5	translated Nahum 1:1 - 2:10, edited Nahum 2:11 - 3:19	52 minutes	120 minutes	2.3:1
Participant #6	edited Nahum 1:1 - 2:10, translated Nahum 2:11 - 3:19	62 minutes	192 minutes	3.1:1
Participant #7	translated Nahum 1:1 - 2:10, edited Nahum 2:11 - 3:19	20 minutes	296 minutes	14.8:1
Participant #8	edited Nahum 1:1 - 2:10, translated Nahum 2:11 - 3:19	24 minutes	65 minutes	2.7:1
			Average Ratio:	4.1

The translator listed as Participant #7 in the table above spent nearly five hours translating the first half of Nahum, and then spent only twenty minutes reading the computer generated draft. He edited the first sentence of the computer generated draft, but did not change anything after that; he said that the computer generated text was fine the way it was. It is not known why he spent nearly five hours translating the first half of Nahum. Without his ratio, the average ratio becomes 2.6, which is much more reflective of the group as a whole.

After Participant #8 had finished the experiment, he was asked to compare the task of editing the computer generated draft with the task of translating. He said that he has edited drafts of various translated materials before, and it is usually so much work that he generally prefers to just translate the texts himself rather than edit someone else's translation. But he said the quality of the draft produced by TBTA was so good that he would much rather edit it rather than do the translation himself, assuming that good exegesis had gone into the development of the semantic representations. He also said that a Jula speaker would probably have required less time to edit the computer generated draft because there were two Jula words in the text that he was not familiar with. After he and Randy discussed those words, he said those sentences were fine. He said that if drafts of the quality produced by TBTA were available for the three translation projects he is currently checking, he would certainly prefer to edit those drafts rather than do the translations manually.

After this experiment had been completed, the changes that Participant #8 made to the computer generated draft of Nahum 1:1 to 2:10 were examined. His changes consist of the following:

- 1) He converted seven nouns to pronouns.
- 2) He added a focus particle in two places.
- 3) He mitigated two imperatives.

- 4) In 2:9 he combined two short sentences into one.
- 5) In 1:14 he reworked the phrase, "... the idols in the temples of your gods."
- 6) In 2:10 he reworded the sentence, "Their faces are white because they are very afraid."

After examining his edited computer draft, it was clear that the text was understandable and grammatically correct.

The results of these eight experiments indicate that these mother-tongue translators were able to edit the computer generated draft in approximately one third the time they needed to manually translate the same quantity of text. However, after completing this first set of experiments, it was not known whether the quality of the edited computer drafts was comparable to the quality of the manually translated texts. Therefore the second set of experiments was performed.

3) Test for Quality of Translation

During this set of experiments, the first seven translators described above were each asked to read and record their translated and edited texts. The two texts produced by participant #8 were sent to Mali and one of the translators also read and recorded those two texts. Recordings were used rather than the actual texts because very few Jula speakers are able to read well. By using recordings rather than texts, many more people could be asked to evaluate the quality of the translations. While making the recordings, the translators were not allowed to make any changes to their texts; the translators read their texts as they were written. While each translator was recording his text, he inserted a pause and a comment in the recording to clearly indicate when he was switching from the first half of the text to the second half. Then each of the recordings was played for five evaluators. These evaluators had no idea where the recordings were from or how they had been produced. Before listening to a recording, the evaluators were told that a short recording that consists of two sections would be played. They were told that the two sections would be clearly indicated in the recording. Then the evaluators were told that after the recording had been played, they would be asked to choose one of the following three options:

- the quality of the first half is better than the quality of the second half,
- the quality of the second half is better than the quality of the first half, or
- the quality of the two halves are essentially equal.

After the evaluators understood what was being requested, each recording was played for five separate evaluators. The responses of the evaluators are shown below in Table 2. In the evaluations column, the number of evaluators who chose the half that had been generated by TBTA and then edited as being better is indicated after 'TBTA', the number of evaluators who chose the half that had been manually translated as being better is indicated after the word 'Manual', and the number of evaluators who said that the two halves are essentially equal in quality is indicated after the word 'Equal'.

Table 2. Evaluations of the Jula Texts

Translator	Ratio	Evaluations
Participant #1	1.7:1	TBTA: 1 Manual: 2

		Equal: 2
Participant #2	2.4:1	TBTA: 4 Manual: 1 Equal: 0
Participant #3	3.8:1	TBTA: 2 Manual: 3 Equal: 0
Participant #4	2.1:1	TBTA: 1 Manual: 0 Equal: 4
Participant #5	2.3:1	TBTA: 0 Manual: 0 Equal: 5
Participant #6	3.1:1	TBTA: 2 Manual: 1 Equal: 2
Participant #7	14.8:1	TBTA: 1 Manual: 3 Equal: 1
Participant #8	2.7:1	TBTA: 1 Manual: 1 Equal: 3
	Total Evaluations	TBTA: 12 Manual: 11 Equal: 17

As seen in the table above, there are a total of 40 evaluations; 12 evaluators chose the edited computer draft as being better, 11 evaluators chose the manually translated text as being better, and 17 evaluators said that the two texts were equal in quality. The results of these independent evaluations indicate that the quality of the edited computer drafts is essentially equal to the quality of the manually translated texts even though the translators spent three times as much time translating as they did editing.

These experiments indicate that using the drafts generated by TBTA tripled the productivity of these experienced mother-tongue translators without any loss of quality. The goal of the TBTA project is to generate texts that are easily understandable, grammatically correct, and have the same semantic content as the original texts. Therefore the final set of experiments is designed to determine whether the generated texts have the same semantic content as the original texts.

4) Tests for Semantic Content

In order to determine whether the computer generated drafts have the same semantic content as the original texts, five simple comprehension questions were developed for each of the three

chapters of Nahum. The comprehension questions were then translated into Jula, and unedited copies of the computer generated draft of each chapter were given to three different individuals. Those people were asked to read the chapter that they had been given, and then answer the comprehension questions for that particular chapter. So three people read the unedited computer draft of chapter 1, and then answered the five questions pertaining to that chapter. Three other people read chapter 2 and answered the questions for that chapter, and three more people read chapter 3 and answered the questions for that chapter. These nine people wrote their answers in Jula, and their answers were then translated into English. The content questions and the responses to them are included in Appendix B. The answers from all nine participants indicate that they clearly understood the main points of the texts after reading the unedited computer generated drafts.

In addition to the comprehension questions, another experiment was performed to determine whether or not the computer generated draft of Nahum had the same semantic content as the original text. In this experiment, an unedited draft of the entire book of Nahum generated by TBTA was given to a technician who works at the radio station mentioned above. That technician was then asked to backtranslate the text into French. That technician's backtranslation was then translated into English, and that translation is included in Appendix C. His backtranslation reveals that the vast majority of the original meaning was clearly communicated by the computer generated draft. Similarly the SIL colleague who was working in Mali with these people also backtranslated the unedited computer draft of Nahum into English, and that backtranslation is also included in appendix C.

5) Conclusions

The results of these experiments led to the following three conclusions:

- 1) The draft of Nahum generated by TBTA was of sufficient quality that it approximately tripled the productivity of eight experienced mother-tongue Jula translators.
- 2) The mother-tongue translators did a thorough job of editing the computer generated draft because independent evaluations indicate that the edited texts and the manually translated texts were of the same quality.
- 3) The draft of Nahum generated by TBTA has the same semantic content as the original document.

After all of these experiments were completed, it was concluded that TBTA generated a draft of Nahum in Jula that was easily understandable, grammatically correct, and semantically equivalent to the original text. Additionally, the generated text was of sufficient quality that it approximately tripled the productivity of these eight experienced mother-tongue translators.

Appendix A: Statistical Analysis

A paired *t*-test was performed to confirm that using the computer generated drafts increased the productivity of these translators beyond what might occur by chance. The mean number of minutes spent editing was 47, and the mean number of minutes spent translating was 149. Including Participant #8's ratio, the average ratio becomes 4.1, and the standard deviation is 4.4. It is very unusual for the standard deviation to be higher than the mean in a case of this type, but the reason is clearly because

Participant #7 is an outlier. If Participant #7 is excluded, the average ratio becomes 2.6 and the standard deviation is .67. Using an alpha of .05, the results are $t(7) = -3.74$, two-tail $p = .0073$, and when Participant #7 is excluded, $t(6) = -6.04$, two-tail $p < .0001$. Since p is less than .05 even when Participant #7 is excluded, the null hypothesis must be rejected, thereby confirming that using the computer generated drafts did increase the productivity of these translators.

The number of evaluations for each translator's text was too small to perform a χ^2 test, but a χ^2 test was performed using the evaluation totals. Using 12, 11, and 17, $\chi^2(2) = 1.55$, $p = .46$. Since this p value is much higher than the standard cutoff value of .05, the result is insignificant, thereby indicating that the evaluation totals are not reliably different from chance for this sample. The binomial distribution probability for this sample is 1.0. This indicates that the differences between the evaluations is insignificant, so one must conclude that the edited computer drafts and the manually translated texts are of indistinguishable quality.

Appendix B: Comprehension Questions

As was stated above, five comprehension questions were developed for each of the three chapters in Nahum. Then those questions were translated into Jula, and the questions for each chapter were shown to three different people. Those people were also given a copy of TBTA's unedited Jula draft of that chapter. So three people were given TBTA's draft of Nahum 1, and then those three people answered the five questions associated with chapter 1. Three other people were given TBTA's unedited draft of Nahum 2, and then asked to answer the questions associated with chapter 2. Similarly three other people were given TBTA's unedited draft of Nahum 3, and then asked to answer the questions for chapter 3. Then all of their responses were translated from Jula into English and are shown below.

Questions for Nahum 1:

1. Please briefly summarize this chapter.

Response #1: God showed a prophecy about the city of Nineve that they should repent of their sins.

Response #2: First, it prophesies that Ninive should repent of their sins. Secondly, it shows the sins of Ninive.

Response #3: God is good. He says the people of Ninive should stop sinning and walk the path of God.

2. List several things that Yahweh does when he's angry.

Response #1: If He is angry with people, He destroys them.

Response #2: He judges the races he is angry with. If he gets angry, he warns.

Response #3: He will not hold guiltless those who do not seek him. He destroys races he is angry with. He curses them. He does not get angry quickly, but if He gets angry, He destroys.

3. List several things that happen to Yahweh's enemies.

Response #1: He kills them all and they lose their lives.

Response #2: His enemies will never be left unpunished.

Response #3: God destroys His enemies and ends them completely. God breaks their idols.

4. What is Yahweh going to do to the people in Nineveh?

Response #1: God got angry with them and gave them to their enemies.

Response #2: Destruction fell on them.

Response #3: God will give them into the hands of their enemies.

5. What does Yahweh predict for the people in Judah?

Response #1: God will lead them in their actions and be their head.

Response #2: God will crush the enemies of Judah beneath His feet.

Response #3: God will save them out of the hands of their enemies and will give them great peace. God will destroy their enemies completely and help them in everything pertaining to them.

Questions for Nahum 2:

1. Please briefly summarize this chapter.

Response #1: A warning. God counseled the Ninivites to change their ways.

Response #2: A warning showing God was angry with the city of Ninive.

Response #3: Warning about the city of Ninive. To show them the suffering which will hit them.

2. Describe Yahweh's soldiers.

Response #1: Red armor was on them. Spears were in their hands and shields.

Response #2: They wore red clothes. They rode chariots.

Response #3: They wear red armor. They carry spears. Also they carry shields.

3. What will the enemies of Nineveh do to Nineveh?

Response #1: They will kill all the men. The women will weep and beat their breasts.

Response #2: They will fight them and kill all their men.

Response #3: They will kill their men and tire them out and go with their possessions.

4. Describe the people in Nineveh during and after the attack.

Response #1: They were afraid. Their eyes were white with fear. They trembled. After the battle, God burned their war chariots. Ninive was lost and their children were killed.

Response #2: Their stomachs hurt. Their knees shook. They were afraid.

Response #3: They're afraid. Their eyes change white. Their knees shake. After the war the children of Ninive are lost.

5. Nineveh is compared to a lion. What did the lion do?

Response #1: It was giving food to its children. The prey it took it filled caverns with, it was mean.

Response #2: The big lion was mean. The prey that it took, it filled caves with it. The lion's children were lost, and the big lion was also lost.

Response #3: That lion gives food to its children. The prey it killed, it filled its house with that meat.

Questions for Nahum 3:

1. Please briefly summarize this chapter.

Response #1: The punishment of Ninive.

Response #2: God will destroy the city of Ninive.

Response #3: The text speaks of the wickedness of the Ninivites.

2. Why did Yahweh destroy Nineveh?

Response #1: They didn't have respect for God.

Response #2: The people of Ninive act badly.

Response #3: For their disobedience to God.

3. What will God do to Nineveh?

Response #1: The city will be delivered to its enemies.

Response #2: God will destroy the city forever.

Response #3: God will chastise the city of Ninive.

4. What happened to the people and children in Thebes?

Response #1: Thebes was also destroyed.

Response #2: The inhabitants of Thebes were captured.

Response #3: Thebes was destroyed.

5. How does God tell the people in Nineveh to prepare for the attack?

Response #1: God tells the inhabitants of Nineve to prepare themselves for the battle. They should place lots of water in reserve. They should make lots of bricks to make a wall of protection.

Response #2: The inhabitants of Ninive should watch the city entrances.

Response #3: God told the people to prepare themselves for the combat. The people of Ninive had to make bricks to construct a wall.

Appendix C: Jula and English drafts of Nahum generated by TBTA and two Backtranslations

Shown below are two drafts of the biblical book of Nahum; the first draft is the unedited Jula draft produced by TBTA, and the second draft is the unedited English draft produced by TBTA. Following the two drafts of Nahum are two backtranslations of TBTA's unedited Jula draft. The first backtranslation was done by an SIL member who lived in Mali and speaks Jula. The second backtranslation was done by a Jula man, and he produced a French backtranslation which was then translated into English by the SIL member mentioned above.

Nahum 1:1 Matigi ka Nahumu kawandiya ka Ninive kow yira a ra. Nahumu tun siginin be Elekosi.

Nahum 1:1 Yahweh showed Nahum a vision about Nineveh. Nahum was living in Elkosh.

Backtranslation #1: The Lord revealed to Nahum the things concerning Nineveh. Nahum lived in Elekosi.

Backtranslation #2: God threatened/warned Nahoum against living in Ninive. Nahoum lived in Elqochite.

Nahum 1:2 Matigi ye Ala ye celiya be min na; a be mɔgɔ juguw tɔrɔ. A be dimi kojugu. Mɔgɔ minw be Matigi kama, a be o tɔrɔ. Matigi be to ka dimi a juguw kɔrɔ.

Nahum 1:2 Yahweh is a jealous God. He punishes wicked people. He is very angry. Yahweh punishes people that oppose him. Yahweh continues to be angry with his enemies.

Backtranslation #1: The Lord is a jealous God; he punishes enemies. He gets very angry. People who are against the Lord, he punishes them. The Lord continually gets angry at his enemies.

Backtranslation #2: The Lord is God, he is jealous, he takes revenge on his adversaries, he gets angry against his adversaries. The Lord gets angry against his enemies.

Nahum 1:3 Matigi te dimi jooa. Fangaba b'a ra. A bena mɔgɔ jarakininw tɔrɔ jaate; a b'a ta fanga yira i ra sanjiw ra ni funufunuw ra. Ni Matigi be tagama wagati min na, sankabaw be i n'a fɔ gbangban a senw jukɔrɔ.

Nahum 1:3 Yahweh does not become angry quickly. He has great power. He will definitely punish guilty people. Yahweh shows you his power in the storms and in the whirlwinds. When Yahweh walks, clouds are like the dust under his feet.

Backtranslation #1: The Lord does not get angry quickly. He has great power. He will punish the guilty without a doubt; he shows his power in the rains and whirlwinds. When the Lord is walking, the clouds are like dust beneath his feet.

Backtranslation #2: The Lord is slow to anger. Lots of power. He does not leave unpunished. He shows His power by the rains-winds. When the Lord walks, the sky is like dust underneath his feet.

Nahum 1:4 A be sɔngɔ kɔgɔji kun na; kɔgɔji be ja. A be baw beɛ laja. Basan ni Karameli ta foro nyumanw be ja; Liban ta fiyerenw be ja.

Nahum 1:4 He rebukes the sea. And the sea becomes dry. He causes all of the rivers to become dry. The fertile fields in Bashan and in Carmel become dry. And the flowers in Lebanon die.

Backtranslation #1: He reproves the sea; the sea dries up. He makes all the rivers dry up. Basan and Karameli's good fields dry up; Liban's flowers dry up.

Backtranslation #2: The Lord reprimands the sea, the sea as well as the rivers dry up. The fields of Karameli and Basan perish. The flowers of Liban wither.

Nahum 1:5 Matigi be kuru jamiyanw yuguyugu; a be kuruw yeelen. Ni a be na wagati min na, dugukolo be yereyere. Dugukolo ani a mɔgɔw bee be yereyere siranya koson.

Nahum 1:5 Yahweh shakes the mountains and causes the hills to melt. When he comes, the earth shakes. The earth and all of the people on it shake with fear.

Backtranslation #1: The Lord shakes the high hills; He melts the hills. When he comes, the earth trembles. The earth and all its people tremble from fear.

Backtranslation #2: The Lord makes tremble the great hills. He makes the hills – (gave no verb. May be confused because ‘yeelen’ also means light, the name of his radio station which would be the first thing many here would think of but wouldn’t make sense.) The earth trembles before his power. The world and all its inhabitants are afraid.

Nahum 1:6 Ni Matigi dimina mɔgɔ kɔrɔ, o mɔgɔ tena se ka to nyanamaya ra. Mɔgɔ si te se ka lo Matigi ta dimiya nya fe. Matigi ta dimiya be i n'a fo tasuma, Matigi be min bon mɔgɔw kan. Fara belebele minw be Matigi ta sira kan, a be o cen.

Nahum 1:6 If Yahweh is angry with a person, that person will not be able to continue to live. No person is able to stand in front of Yahweh's anger. Yahweh's anger is like fire that Yahweh pours on people. Yahweh destroys huge stones that are on his path.

Backtranslation #1: If the Lord is angry with people, those people will not be able to stay alive. No person can stand before the anger of the Lord. The Lord’s anger is like fire, which the Lord pours out on people. The great rocks which are in the Lord’s path, he breaks them.

Backtranslation #2: No one can withstand the anger of the Lord. The anger of the Lord spreads like fire. He breaks the rocks in passing.

Nahum 1:7 Matigi ka nyi. Kunkow be mɔgɔ minw na, a be o tagan. Matigi be mɔgɔw lon minw be la a ra.

Nahum 1:7 Yahweh is good. He protects people that have troubles. Yahweh knows the people that trust him.

Backtranslation #1: The Lord is good. People with difficulties/problems, he spares them. The Lord knows those who believe in Him.

Backtranslation #2: The Lord is good. He is a shelter in the day of distress. He takes care of believers.

Nahum 1:8 Nka Matigi bēna a juguw halaki pewu. Sorasi dōw bēna o juguw lamini i n'a fō Ala bē dugukolo datugu ni jiwoyo ye cogo min na. Matigi bēna a juguw gben fō ka o faga.

Nahum 1:8 But Yahweh will completely destroy his enemies. An army will surround these enemies like God covers the land with a flood. Yahweh will chase his enemies until he kills his enemies.

Backtranslation #1: But the Lord will destroy His enemies completely. Some soldiers will surround those enemies like God covers the earth with streams. The Lord will throw out His enemies to the point of killing them.

Backtranslation #2: The Lord will destroy totally his enemies. He will pursue his enemies like God floods the earth with water. He will pursue His enemies to the darkness [He's looked at French here. French says this, Jula does not. But he hasn't gone on with the French version.]

Nahum 1:9 Kana janfa siri Matigi kama. Matigi bēna i halaki o yōrōnin bē. A mako tena kē a ra ka i bugō sinyaga fla.

Nahum 1:9 Do not plot against Yahweh. Yahweh will immediately destroy you and will not need to hit you two times.

Backtranslation #1: Don't make a plot (betray) the Lord. The Lord will destroy you in that instant. He won't need to strike you (beat you up) twice.

Backtranslation #2: Don't meditate/plan against the Lord. He can destroy you immediately. He doesn't need to strike you twice.

Nahum 1:10 Matigi bēna a juguw jeni i n'a fō cē bē binjuguw jeni cogo min na. Matigi bēna o juguw siri i n'a fō ṅaniyiri borow bē siri cogo min na. A juguw bēna talon ka bēn i n'a fō cē min ka doro caman min ka nyanamini, o bē talon ka bēn cogo min na.

Nahum 1:10 Yahweh will burn his enemies like a man burns dry weeds. Yahweh will tie these enemies like the twigs of a thorn bush are tied. His enemies will fall like a man that drank a lot of wine falls.

Backtranslation #1: The Lord will burn up his enemies like a man burns up weeds. The Lord will tie up those enemies like thornbush branches are tied up. His enemies will stumble and fall like a man who drank much and got drunk, like such a man stumbles and falls.

Backtranslation #2: He will burn his enemies like one who burns bad grass. He will tie together his enemies as if someone tied thorny tree branches. The enemy will fall to the earth like a drunkard.

Nahum 1:11 Ninivekace dɔ ka janfa siri Matigi kama; a be i laadi ka ko juguw ke.

Nahum 1:11 A man from Nineveh plotted against Yahweh. This man advises you to do wicked things.

Backtranslation #1: A man from Nineve made a plot to betray the Lord; he counseled to do evil.

Backtranslation #2: A man of Ninive planned against the Lord to do evil.

Nahum 1:12 Matigi ko: "Mɔgɔ caman siginin be Asiri; teriw be Asiri fe. Nka ne bena Asiri cen. Ne ta mɔgɔw, ne ka aw tɔɔɔ sinyaga kelen; ne tena aw tɔɔɔ tuun.

Nahum 1:12 Yahweh said, "Many people live in Assyria. And Assyria has friends. But I will destroy Assyria. My people, I punished you one time. I will not punish you again.

Backtranslation #1: The Lord says: "Many people live in Asiri; Asiri has friends. But I will destroy/ruin Asiri. My people, I have punished you once; I will not punish you again.

Backtranslation #2: Thus says the Lord, People full of violence I will destroy [He has left out the part about Assyria, perhaps not seeing that in the French, but he hasn't taken the French translation, either] Believers suffer only once.

Nahum 1:13 Negejɔɔɔkɔ minw be aw siri, ne bena o kari. Ne bena aw bɔsi Asiri boro ra."

Nahum 1:13 I will break the chains that are on you. I will free you from Assyria."

Backtranslation #1: The chains which bind you, I will break them. I will save/free you from the hand of Asiri.

Backtranslation #2: I will break the chains binding you, I will save you from the violent.

Nahum 1:14 Matigi k'a fɔ Ninivekaw ye ko: "Aw tena durujaw sɔrɔ. Jow bɛ aw ta alaw ta jobatobonw kɔnɔ. Ne bena o jow halaki. Ne bena kaburu sozi aw ye sabu aw ka jugu."

Nahum 1:14 Yahweh said to the people of Nineveh, "You will not have descendants. There are idols in the temples of your gods. I will destroy those idols. I will dig a grave for you because you are wicked."

Backtranslation #1: The Lord said to the inhabitants of Ninive: You will not have descendants. Idols are in your gods' idol worship houses. I will destroy those idols. I will dig graves for you because you are evil.

Backtranslation #2: The Lord cursed the Ninivites: you will not be blessed [I have no clue where he has gotten this, maybe a Muslim interpretation] ~Even if you were in Heaven/the skies I would destroy the skies, who will be in the house of heaven I will destroy the heavens, I will dig your tomb because you are mean.

Nahum 1:15 Zudakaw, a flɛ! Ciden min bɛ kuruw kan, o bɛ nana. A bena kibaro diman lakari aw ye. O kibaro diman bena kɛ hera ko ye. Nyagari ni nyanagbew ye. Aw ka layiri ta Matigi ye ko aw bena ko minw kɛ, o kɛ. Mɔgɔ juguw tena aw kɛrɛ tuun. Matigi ka o mɔgɔ juguw halaki pewu.

Nahum 1:15 People of Judah, look! A messenger on the hills is coming. He will tell you about good news. This good news will be about peace. Celebrate with feasts. Do the things that you promised Yahweh that you would do. Wicked people will not attack you again. Yahweh completely destroyed those wicked people.

Backtranslation #1: Inhabitants of Zuda, look at it! The messenger which is on the hills, he is coming. He will tell you good news. That good news will be a subject of peace. Joy and parties. You have promised the Lord saying you will do certain things; do them. Enemies will not make war against you any more. The Lord has destroyed those enemies completely.

Backtranslation #2: Announce to Zuda: These men who are on the hill are come to announce the Gospel which will you happiness, joy to trust the Lord with all one does. The enemy will have no more strength, total destruction of the enemies.

Nahum 2:1 Ninivekaw, Matigi bena aw halaki. Aw yɛrɛ laben ka aw ta dugu tagan. Sira kɔrɔsi. Aw ta kɛrɛkɛminanw bɛɛ laben.

Nahum 2:1 People of Nineveh, Yahweh will destroy you. Prepare to defend your city. Watch the road. Prepare all of your weapons.

Backtranslation #1: Inhabitants of Ninive, the Lord will destroy you. Prepare yourselves to spare your city. Watch/Guard the road. Prepare all your war tools.

Backtranslation #2: The Lord has made Ninive destitute. Protect your village and the roads. Make ready your arms.

Nahum 2:2 Aw ka Matigi ta mɔgɔw halaki; aw ka kere ke ni o mɔgɔw ye ka se soro o kan ka o ta borofenw mina ka taga ni o borofenw ye. Nka Matigi bena Yakuba denw ni Izirayelidenw ke fangatigiw ye tuun.

Nahum 2:2 You destroyed Yahweh's people and plundered those people's towns. But Yahweh will cause Jacob's people and the people of Israel to be great again.

Backtranslation #1: You have destroyed the Lord's people; you have made war against those people and been victorious and taken their possessions and left with those possessions. But the Lord will make Yakuba's children and Izarayeli's children authorities again.

Backtranslation #2: Destroy the believers! [very interesting. Past tense in Jula is imperative in Bambara.] Power over the believers. Steal their possessions. But God gave strength to the sons of Jacob and something like pride to the sons of Israel.

Nahum 2:3 Negebennan wulenmanw be Matigi ta sorasiw boro; derege wulenman be sorasiw kanw na. Ni sorasiw be Ninive kerera wagati min na, kerewotorow ta nege be manamana. Sorasiw be o ta tamanw yuguyugura san fe.

Nahum 2:3 Yahweh's soldiers have red shields. And the soldiers are wearing red clothes. When the soldiers are attacking Nineveh, the metal on the chariots shines. The soldiers are shaking their spears in the air.

Backtranslation #1: Red shields are in the hands of the Lord's soldiers; soldiers wear red clothes. When soldiers fight Ninive, the war chariots' metal shines. Soldiers shake their spears overhead.

Backtranslation #2: Valliant men are clothed in scarlet. Metal clothes become red when the heros combat Ninive. The combat chariots shine. Springs of sparks are seen overhead.

Nahum 2:4 Kerewotorow be bori joona joona dugusiraw ra; o be teliya ka teme dugu ra.
Kerewotorow be teme joona joona fo o be i n'a fo san manamana.

Nahum 2:4 The chariots race on the streets and move through the city quickly. The chariots move very quickly so that they appear like lightening.

Backtranslation #1: War chariots race quickly through the city streets; they hurry and pass through the city. War chariots pass quickly to the point of being like lightening.

Backtranslation #2: Chariots roll crazily in the streets, they hurry through the places/city squares. To see them you would say they were flames/torches.

Nahum 2:5 Asiri ta masace b'a ta sorasi kuntigiw wele. Sorasi kuntigiw be dugu kogo tagan ka dese. Nka sorasi kuntigiw be talon ka ben dugusiraw kan.

Nahum 2:5 The king of Assyria calls his officers. The officers try to defend the wall of the city. But the officers fall on the streets.

Backtranslation #1: The king of Asiri calls the heads/leaders of his soldiers. The soldiers' leaders are tired of sparing the city walls. But the leaders of the soldiers stumble and fall on the city streets.

Backtranslation #2: The king of Assyria calls his valiant men. Your valiant men stumble in their walking. They hurry on the city streets.

Nahum 2:6 Ninive juguw be dondaw dayele ba kere fe; o be woyo dugu konjo i n'a fo jiwoyo. O jiwoyo be masace ta bon cen.

Nahum 2:6 The enemy of Nineveh opens the gates near the river and pours in the city like a flood. This flood destroys the palace.

Backtranslation #1: The enemies of Nineve open the entrances by the river; they spill through the city like streams. Those streams destroy the king's house.

Backtranslation #2: The adversaries of Ninive open the doors of rivers and the palace of the king crumbles.

Nahum 2:7 Matigi bena o mɔgɔw kɛ a ta kasodenw ye. Ninive ta baardenmusow bɛɛ bena kasi ka kule o mɔgɔw kosɔn. O bena o disiw gbasi gbasi sabu o nyanasisinin lo.

Nahum 2:7 Yahweh will cause these people to be his prisoners. All of the female servants in Nineveh will mourn for these people. They will hit their chests because they are very sad.

Backtranslation #1: The Lord will make those people become his prisoners. The female servants of Nineve all will weep and cry out because of those people. They will beat their chests because they are discouraged.

Backtranslation #2: They are put into slavery. The female servants of Ninive cry cries because of these people while beating their breasts.

Nahum 2:8 Ninive bɛ i n'a fɔ dinga jiman, ji bɛ bɔra min kɔnɔ. Mɔgɔw bɛ kule ko: "Bori dabra!" Nka mɔgɔw bɛɛ bɛ to ka bori.

Nahum 2:8 Nineveh is like a pool that the water is leaking from. People yell, "Stop running!" But all of the people continue to run.

Backtranslation #1: Ninive is like a hole with water from which water comes out. People call/cry out: "Stop running!" But everyone keeps running.

Backtranslation #2: Ninive springs like a water reservoir. Men flee. Stop! Stop! But no one stops.

Nahum 2:9 Wari ta. Sanin sonya. Naforo caman bɛ yɔrɔw bɛɛ ra.

Nahum 2:9 Take the silver. Plunder the gold. There is a lot of treasure in all of the places.

Backtranslation #1: Take silver. Steal gold. Lots of wealth is everywhere.

Backtranslation #2: Pillage silver and gold. Lots of riches everywhere.

Nahum 2:10 Ninive juguw ka Ninive cɛn; o ka kɛrɛ kɛ ni Ninive ye ka se sɔrɔ a kan k'a ta borofɛnw mina ka taga ni o borofɛnw ye. Ninivekaw bɛ siran. O kinbiriw bɛ yerɛyɛrɛ siranya kosɔn. O kɔnɔbaraw bɛ o dimi. O nyaw yɛlɛmana ka gbɛ sabu o bɛ siran.

Nahum 2:10 The enemies of Nineveh destroyed Nineveh and plundered Nineveh. The people of Nineveh are afraid. Their knees shake with fear. Their stomachs hurt. Their faces become white because they are very afraid.

Backtranslation #1: The enemies of Ninive have destroyed Ninive; they have made war with Ninive and been victorious and taken its possessions and left with those possessions. The inhabitants of Ninive are afraid. They shake their knees from fear. Their stomachs hurt them. Their eyes change white because they are afraid.

Backtranslation #2: The adversaries of Ninive pillaged it. Power over Ninive. Pillage all their goods. They tremble from fear writhing with stomach ache. Their eyes wide open from fear.

Nahum 2:11 Ninive be min sisan? O jara be min? Jara be domuni di a denw ma min? A be taga min janko a kana siran?

Nahum 2:11 Where is Nineveh now? Where is this lion? Where does the lion feed his children? Where does he go so that he could not be afraid?

Backtranslation #1: Where is Ninive now? Where is that lion? Where does the lion give food to its children? Where does it go so as not to be afraid?

Backtranslation #2: Where are the brave men? Where is the lion? Where will the lioness find food for her cub? Where will he go not to fear?

Nahum 2:12 Jara k'a juguw faga janko ka domuni di a den ma. A ka sogo minw mina, a ka kuruwo fa ni o ye. A ka sogo minw faga, a k'a ta bon fa ni o sogobu ye.

Nahum 2:12 The lion killed his enemies to feed his family. He filled the cave with the animals that he caught and filled his house with the meat of the animals that he killed.

Backtranslation #1: The lion killed its enemies so as to give food to its child. The prey/meat that it took, it filled caves with. The prey it killed, it filled its house with that meat.

Backtranslation #2: The lion killed its adversaries for the prey for its young, filling with prey the hills' holes, filling with prey all its dwelling.

Nahum 2:13 Nka Sebeetigi ko: "Ne ye i jugu ye! Ne bena i ta kerewotorow jeni; ne bena i jara denninw faga ni famuru ye. Ne bena i bari ka mɔgɔ werew denden ka o faga. I tena se ka i ta ciden kan men."

Nahum 2:13 But the Lord of hosts said, "I am your enemy! I will burn your chariots and kill your young lions with a sword. I will prevent you from hunting other people. You will not be able to hear your messenger's voice."

Backtranslation #1: But the Almighty says: "I am your enemy! I will burn your war chariots; I will kill your lion cubs with the sword. I will keep you from sneaking after other people and killing them. I will not be able to hear the voice of your messenger."

Backtranslation #2: But God says, "I am your enemy, I will burn your combat chariots then kill the lion cubs with the sword. I will kill all the heros. You will no longer be able to hear your heros.

Nahum 3:1 Ninive bena tɔrɔ kojugu! Ninive b'a yere datugu ni a juguw jori ye. Dugu fanin be faninyaw ra; a fanin be jamana werew naforo ra.

Nahum 3:1 Nineveh will suffer much! Nineveh covers itself with its enemies' blood. The city is full of lies. The city is full of the wealth of other countries.

Backtranslation #1: Ninive will suffer badly. Ninive covers itself with the blood of its enemies. The city is full of lies; it is full of other countries' riches.

Backtranslation #2: Woe to the city of Ninive, city full of blood, full of lies. Lies are in other countries' riches.

Nahum 3:2 Gbenyew mankan lamén. Kerewotorow ta senw mankan lamén. So minw be borira dugusiraw ra, o mankan lamén.

Nahum 3:2 Listen to the whips. Listen to the wheels of the chariots. Listen to the horses that are running on the streets.

Backtranslation #1: Hear the noise of the whips. Hear the noise of the war chariots' wheels. The horses which run in the city streets, hear their noise.

Backtranslation #2: Noise of whips is heard, Chariots bound. Horses gallop on the roads and are heard.

Nahum 3:3 Sorasi minw yelenin be sow kan, o be teliyara ka na. Sorasiw ta famuruw ni o ta tamanw be manamanana. Mɔgɔw be sara yɔrɔw bɛɛ ra. Mɔgɔ sanin caman be yi fɔ mɔgɔw tɛ se ka o suw jate. Mɔgɔw be talon ka ben o suw kan.

Nahum 3:3 Soldiers on horses are coming quickly. The soldiers' swords and the soldiers' spears are shining. People are dying in all places. There are many dead people so that people are not able to count these corpses. People fall on these corpses.

Backtranslation #1: Soldiers mounted on horses hurry to come. Soldiers swords and spears shine. People are dying everywhere. There are so many dead people that people can not count the dead. People stumble and fall over the dead.

Backtranslation #2: The assault of the cavalry hastens. The heros have swords and the arrows shine, dead everywhere. Innumerable cadavers. Men fall over the cadavers.

Nahum 3:4 Matigi ka Ninive cen sabu Ninive tun ye jatɔmuso ye. Ninive tun cekanyi. Subagaya tun ka di a ye. A ka jamana werɛw kɔrɔbɔ ni subagaya ye.

Nahum 3:4 Yahweh destroyed Nineveh because Nineveh was a prostitute. Nineveh was beautiful. It liked witchcraft and tempted other countries with it.

Backtranslation #1: The Lord has destroyed Ninive because Ninive was an adulteress. Ninive was beautiful. She liked sorcery. She tempted other countries with sorcery.

Backtranslation #2: God destroyed Ninive. There were lots of prostitutes, pretty women sorcerers. Sorcery in other countries.

Nahum 3:5 Sebɛɛtigi ko: "Ninive, ne ye i jugu ye! Ne bɛna i ta fani wuri fɔ ka i nya datugu ni a ye. O ra, dununya mɔgɔw bɛɛ bɛna i lakolon ye. Ne bɛna i yira dununya masayaw bɛɛ i jarkinin lo.

Nahum 3:5 The Lord of hosts said, "Nineveh, I am your enemy! I will lift your dress until I cover your face with it. Then all of the people on the earth will see that you are naked. To all of the kingdoms of the earth I will show that you are guilty.

Backtranslation #1: The Almighty says: "Ninive, I am your enemy! I will lift your clothes to the point of covering your eyes with them. Like that, all the peoples of the world will see you naked. I will show you to all the kings of the earth that you are guilty.

Backtranslation #2: God says, here I am, against you. I will lift my covering over your face, by that all will know you. All the kings of the world accuse you.

Nahum 3:6 Ne bena nyamanyama firi i kan. Mɔgɔw bena i kɔninya. Mɔgɔw bena o nya lɔ i ra ka i flɛ. O sababu ra, bana bena kɛ mɔgɔw ra.

Nahum 3:6 I will throw garbage on you. People will hate you. People will stare at you, and they will become sick.

Backtranslation #1: I will throw waste on you. People will hate you. People will stare at you and look. Because of that, people will be ill.

Backtranslation #2: I will throw garbage on you. I will wither you, to give a spectacle from which everyone will be ill.

Nahum 3:7 Mɔgɔ minw bɛ i ye, o bɛɛ bena bori ka bɔ i kɔrɔ. O mɔgɔw bena a fɔ ko: "Ninive cenna. Jɔn bena kasi ka kule Ninive kosɔn? Ne tɛ se ka mɔgɔ kelen sɔrɔ min bena kasi i ye."

Nahum 3:7 All of the people that see you will run from you and say, "Nineveh was destroyed. Who will mourn for Nineveh? I am not able to find one person that will cry for you."

Backtranslation #1: The people who see you will run away from you. Those people will say: "Ninive is destroyed. Who will weep and cry out because of Ninive? I can't find one person who will weep for you."

Backtranslation #2: Thus anyone who sees you flees far from you. People will say that Ninive is destroyed. Who will cry because of Ninive? No one will cry with you.

Nahum 3:8 I bɛ i n'a fɔ Tɛbi dugu. Tɛbi dugu tun lɔnin bɛ Nili kɔba kɛrɛ fɛ. Ji ka Tɛbi dugu lamini. Ji ka Tɛbi dugu tagan i n'a fɔ kogo bɛ bon tagan cogo min na.

Nahum 3:8 You are like Thebes. Thebes was by the Nile river. Water surrounded Thebes. The water protected Thebes like a wall protects a house.

Backtranslation #1: You are like the city of Tebi. The city Tebi was situated along the river Nili. Water encircled the city of Tebi. Water protected the city Tebi like a wall protects a house.

Backtranslation #2: You resemble the city of Thebes situated on the banks of the Nile. Thebes is surrounded by water. Water protected the city like a wall protects a house.

Nahum 3:9 Etiyopi ni Misiran ka fanga di Tebi dugu ma. Putidugu ni Libi ka Tebi dugu deme.

Nahum 3:9 Ethiopia and Egypt gave power to Thebes. Put and Libya helped Thebes.

Backtranslation #1: Etiyopi/Ethiopia and Egypt gave Tebi power. The city of Puti and Libi helped the city Tebi.

Backtranslation #2: Ethiopia and Egypt gave power to Thebes. Put and Lebanon helped the city of Thebes.

Nahum 3:10 Nka Tebi dugu minana. Tebikaw tun ye kasodenw ye. Tebi dugu ta denmisenw fagara dugusiraw ra. Sorasiw ka karala ke janko ka jonw nyanawoloma ka o bo Tebi dugu mogobaw ra. Sorasiw ka Tebi dugu mogobaw bee siri ni negejorokow ye.

Nahum 3:10 But Thebes was captured. The people of Thebes were prisoners. The small children in Thebes were killed in the streets. Soldiers threw lots to choose slaves from the important men of Thebes. The soldiers put chains on all of the officials of Thebes.

Backtranslation #1: But the city of Tebi was taken. The inhabitants of Tebi were prisoners. The city Tebi's children were killed in the city streets. Soldiers drew lots to choose slaves and take them from among the great people of the city of Tebi. Soldiers have bound all the great people of the city Tebi with chains.

Backtranslation #2: The city of Thebes was seized. Slavery for the Thebians. The young of Thebes died on the street. The brave heroes sorted the slaves of the city of Thebes. Valliant men chained the brave of Thebes.

Nahum 3:11 Ninive, i bena ben fana i n'a fo mogwo min ka doru caman min ka nyanamini, o be talon ka ben cogo min na. I bena yoro dogonin do nyini janko ka dogo i juguw nya.

Nahum 3:11 Nineveh, you will also fall like a person that drank a lot of wine falls. You will search for a safe place to hide from your enemy.

Backtranslation #1: Ninive, you also will fall like someone who drank a lot and got drunk, like such a one stumbles and falls. You will search for a hiding place to hide from the eyes of your enemies.

Backtranslation #2: When Ninive shakes them she will fall like a drunk who drank a lot of drinks to become drunk. Find a corner to hide yourself from slaves.

Nahum 3:12 I ta dugu kogojanw bεε bε i n'a fɔ tɔrɔden mɔninw yiri ra. Ni cε ka yiri yuguyugu, tɔrɔdenw bε ben cε da kɔnɔ.

Nahum 3:12 All of your fortresses are like ripe figs on a tree. If a man shakes the tree, the figs fall into his mouth.

Backtranslation #1: Your city's high walls all are like ripe figs on the tree. If a man shakes the tree the figs fall in his mouth.

Backtranslation #2: The walls of the city crumble like fruits of the tree. If a Mister shakes the tree the fruits fall.

Nahum 3:13 I ta sorasiw flε. I ta sorasiw ye musow ye! I ta dugu dondaw dayelenin bε. I juguw ka dondaw jeni; o bε se ka don i ta jamana kɔnɔ.

Nahum 3:13 Look at your soldiers. Your soldiers are women! The gates of your city are open. Your enemies burned the gates. Your enemies are able to enter your country.

Backtranslation #1: Look at your soldiers. Your soldiers are women! The entrances to your city are open. Your enemies burned the gates; they can come into your country.

Backtranslation #2: There look, valiant heros are women. The doors of your country open. Burn the entry ways to hinder your enemies from entering.

Nahum 3:14 Sani i juguw ye i kerε, ji caman bla dan na! I yerε laben ka kerε kε. Birikiw ni laso gbasi. Dugu kogo lalaga.

Nahum 3:14 Before your enemies attack you, store a lot of water! Prepare to fight. Make bricks and mortar. Repair the wall of the city.

Backtranslation #1: Before your enemies make war with you, set apart lots of water! Prepare yourself for war. Hit the bricks and the floor. (?) Prepare the walls of the city.

Backtranslation #2: To hinder your enemies pour out lots of water, ready yourselves for combat. Make bricks to construct walls.

Nahum 3:15 Ka i to i be i yere labenna ka kere ke, tasuma bena i halaki. Kere bena i halaki pewu i n'a fo tonw be siman domu k'a ban pewu cogo min na. Hali ni i ka den caman woro, i tena bosi o ra. Hali ni i jateda tun be i n'a fo tonw ta jateda, i tena bosi o ra.

Nahum 3:15 While you are preparing to fight, the fire will destroy you. The battle will completely destroy you like locusts completely eat the crops. Even if you give birth to many children, you will not escape. Even if your number is like the number of locusts, you will not escape.

Backtranslation #1: While you prepare yourself to make war, fire will destroy you. War will destroy you completely like locusts eat grain entirely. Even if you have given birth to many children, you will not escape from that. Even if your number were as great as locusts, you would not escape from that.

Backtranslation #2: While you are preparing yourself fire will destroy you. Total destruction like a meal completely eaten. Even if you have given birth to many children you will not escape.

Nahum 3:16 Jagokebaga caman be i ta dugu ra. Jagokebagaw jateda be i n'a fo lolow ta jateda. Nka o jagokebagaw bena dugukolo cen i n'a fo tonw be dugukolo cen cogo min na. O ko fe o jagokebagaw bena taga yoro were ra.

Nahum 3:16 There are many merchants in your city. The number of merchants is like the number of stars. But these merchants will destroy the land like locusts destroy the land. Then those merchants will go to another place.

Backtranslation #1: Lots of merchants are in your city. The number of merchants is like the number of stars. But those merchants will destroy the earth like locusts destroy the earth. After that those merchants will go somewhere else.

Backtranslation #2: Many business people/sellers are in the city. The sellers multiply like stars. The sellers made destitute the earth like groups will. After that the sellers will move to another area.

Nahum 3:17 I ta k̄or̄sibagaw ni i ta sorasi kuntigiw b̄onin b̄e t̄onw f̄e. Ni n̄en̄e b̄e yi wagati min na, t̄onw b̄e sigi kogo kan. Nka ni fundenin b̄e yi wagati min na, t̄onw b̄e wuri ka taga ȳor̄o w̄er̄e; t̄onw wurira ka taga ȳor̄o min, m̄oḡo si tena o l̄on.

Nahum 3:17 Your guards and your officers are like locusts. When the weather is cold, the locusts sit on a wall. But when the weather is hot, the locusts fly to another place. And no person will know the place where the locusts flew.

Backtranslation #1: Your guards and leaders of soldiers are like grasshoppers. When cold comes, locusts sit on the walls. But when heat comes, locusts fly away and go somewhere else; where the locusts left to, no one will know.

Backtranslation #2: The guards and chief warriors resemble groups. When it's cold the groups mount the walls and when it's hot they leave for an unknown destination.

Nahum 3:18 Asiri ta masace, i ta fagamaw b̄e sun̄oḡora. I ta m̄oḡobaw b̄e b̄e nenekirira. Sagagbenbaga t̄e yi min b̄ena i ta m̄oḡow nyini ka o ye. I ta m̄oḡow tununa kuru jamijan kan.

Nahum 3:18 King of Assyria, your rulers are sleeping. All of your important men are resting. There is not a shepherd that will find your people. Your people are lost on the mountain.

Backtranslation #1: King of Asiri, your authorities are sleeping. Your important people are all resting. There is not a shepherd who will look for your people to find them. Your people were lost on the hills.

Backtranslation #2: Valliant men sleep, King of Assyria. Valliant men sweat with fear. No shepherd can ask them what it's about. Your people disperse on the mountains.

Nahum 3:19 M̄oḡo si t̄e se ka i jori flake. I b̄ena sa jaate. M̄oḡo minw b'a men ko i b̄ena sa, o b̄e b̄e nins̄ondiya. M̄oḡow b̄e nins̄ondiya sabu i tun ka o t̄or̄o.

Nahum 3:19 No person is able to heal your wound. You will definitely die. All of the people that hear that you will die are happy. The people are happy because you were cruel toward them.

Backtranslation #1: No one can care for your wounds. You will die without a doubt. Those who hear you will die will be glad. People are glad because you made them suffer.

Backtranslation #2: No one can take care of your wound. You will die. Those who learn of your death will be happy. Lots of joy because they were all bothered.