Translation in a survey situation with a semi-structured interview

Case study: MALI

An illustration of the evolution of a survey guide from "version 1 - office in France", to "version 2 - office in Mali" to "version 3—in the field in Mali".

Example drawn from the following bibliographic resources:


Context:
Parkland trees in the dry area of Tiby in Mali provide (i) Products: fruits, fodder, firewood, timber, medicines (ii) Services: improvement of soil fertility, soil conservation, decrease of soil erosion, shade and (iii) Socio-cultural functions: patrimony, inheritance, landmark, sacred and symbolic feature

The degradation of parklands is due to trees aging, low generation rate and an increase in droughts since the 1970's. This degradation threatens the food security of local populations. Within this framework, the project Funcitree (http://funcitree.nina.no) aims to provide farmers with a portfolio of regionally suitable tree species which are capable of providing multiple services, as perceived by the farmers and in terms of fundamental ecological functions.

Functional trait: Any morphological, physiological or phenological feature of an organism, measurable at the individual level and which impacts fitness indirectly via its effects on growth, reproduction or survival.
Main question: what services do woody species provide farmers in the Tiby area of Mali?

Secondary questions:
- Q1: How do farmers use these species?
- Q2: How do farmers perceive the functional traits of these species?
- Q3: What is the link between the functional traits of woody species and the services that they perform?

Principal hypothesis: the woody species of the Tiby area in Mali serve to provide a range of very diversified goods and services for farmers.

Secondary hypotheses:
- H1: Farmers use the species to provide goods (food, fuel, forage, medicinal substances, construction material, and marketable products, etc.) and services (maintenance of soil fertility, water conservation, environmental protection, etc.).
- H2: Farmers have their own perception of the functional traits of woody species that varies according to their personal experience (learning at home and school, ethnic group, observation skills).
- H3: The functional traits of woody species influence the services that these species provide, which vary according to environmental and anthropogenic factors.

1) Version “1 – office in France”, developed in France, not translated into Bambara;

Here is the first version of the interview guide for the study entitled, "Farmers' perception of the services and functional traits of woody species (in and off fields)", conducted in Mali in 2010.

This version was developed in France at CIRAD, the research institute in charge of the study, after the core research question was defined and the variables to investigate and people to meet were identified. A significant amount of prior work on the wording of questions in the interview guide responded to the required quality criteria: few questions, open-ended questions, follow-up questions ready.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLES</th>
<th>QUESTIONS</th>
<th>PRECISION/FOLLOW-UP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Farmer    | • What is your personal history? | • Where are you from?  
• What are your activities today?  
• What did you do in the past?  
• What training have you received?  |
| Farm      | • Who are the people | • Who lives on the farm? |

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Farm management</strong></th>
<th>present on the farm?</th>
<th>• Which of them work there?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What land is available to you?</td>
<td>• How do you use the land? • What is the surface area?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What do you produce?</td>
<td>• What types of crops or livestock do you farm/raise? • What uses do you put the various products produced? • In what quantities do you produce?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aspirations of the farmer</strong></td>
<td>How does the farm operate?</td>
<td>How do you produce? • What are the roles of the other people on the farm? • What problems do you encounter on the farm?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What resources do you need for each production?</td>
<td>• What resources are available on the farm? • Which are missing? Why? • What is the price of each of these resources?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What techniques do you use for each production?</td>
<td>Why? What do they consist of? • How did you learn them? • How are they used in the region?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Functional traits of trees</strong></td>
<td>What would you like to improve on your farm?</td>
<td>What do you need to do this?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What is the name of this species?</td>
<td>Where does it come from? • How was it planted on the farm?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• How would you describe it?</td>
<td>How can you recognize it? • What are its distinguishing features? • What are the characteristics of its different parts?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Functions of trees</strong></td>
<td>What is its use?</td>
<td>In which seasons do you use it? • How do you use its different parts?</td>
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<tr>
<td>VARIABLES</td>
<td>QUESTIONS</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>What is your history?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- o What is your ethnic group?
- o How long have you lived in the village?
- o What are your activities?
- o With which one do you make your living?

**To sum up, when classing them, which species:****

- do you prefer for each use?
- are the most interesting economically?
- require the most work?

- Why?

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**2) Version “2 - office in Mali” adapted into Bambara, developed in Mali.**

In Mali at the offices of the Institute of Rural Studies, the research partner, the interview guide was reworked with Malian partners who spoke Bambara, the language in which the interviews were conducted. The proposed version adapts the preceding version of the guide to the special features of this language and to local meanings.
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Farm</strong></th>
<th><strong>Translation in survey situations with semi-structured interviews</strong></th>
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</table>
| How many people are in your family? | o What activities did you do in the past?  
o What training have you received? |
| How many hectares do you farm? | o How many family members work?  
o How many men/women? |
| What are your sources of income? | o What do you mostly grow?  
o How many hectares do you have under:  
Rice?  
Millet/sorghum?  
Gardens/orchards? |
| | o What quantities do you produce of:  
Rice?  
Millet/sorghum?  
Fruits? |
| Farm management | o What sort of animals do you mostly keep?  
o What animal/farm products do you sell? |
| What is the role of each person in the activities of the family? | o For crops/livestock? |
| What problems do you encounter? | o What are your solutions? |
| Aspirations of the farmer | What changes would you like to make? |
| Functions of trees | o In scrubland fields?  
o In the fields?  
o In the gardens? |
| What type of trees and bushes do you have on your farm? |
3) Version "3 - in the field in Mali" adapted to interlocutors in the villages, translated into Bambara: this last version was developed after testing the preceding version with several interlocutors.

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| **Farmer** | Could you present yourself? | o What is your ethnic group?  
o How long have you lived in the village?  
o What are your activities?  
o With which one do you make your living?  
o What is your main source of income?  
o What activities did you do in the past?  
o What schooling have you received?  
o What training have you received? |
| **Farm** | How many people are in your family? | o How many family members work?  
o How many men/women? |
|           | How many people work on the farm? | o How many workers are members of your family?  
o Do you have outside labour? |
|           | How many hectares do you farm? | o What do you mostly grow?  
o In 2009, how many hectares did you have under:  
Rice?  
Millet/sorghum?  
Gardens/orchards? |
<p>|           | How many animals do you have? | What are your main livestock animals? |
|           | What are your sources of | What animal/farm products do you sell? |</p>
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<td>What is the role of each family member?</td>
<td></td>
<td>o For crops/livestock?</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| What problems do you encounter? |  | o What solutions have you applied?  
|  |  | o What solutions did you think of? |
| Aspirations of the farmer | What changes would you like to make? |  |
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