

Unusual Verses

With 57 words, I'm going to nominate 3 John 10 for the distinction of being the longest verse in the Navajo New Testament. A close second is Hebrews 9:4, which has 56 words.

Áko shí aadi náyáá ládáá' saad nichxó'í yee nihá hahadziihgo t'áá ádzaagóo nihaa halne'go yaa naagháhígíí béenihidiyeeshnih. Nidi nichxó'ógo nihaa nahalne'ígíí doo bił sih da, Christ bee nihił danilíinii ákwii nehekáhígíí doo yich'i' k'é nídzin da, ında t'áá háiiida bich'i' k'é daznidzin dooleet yéę nidi yich'ááh naagháago oodlání álah nádleehii bitahgi k'é daznidzinígíí nahji' hahodii'níił doo nízín! (3 John 10) ¹

^{NIV} **3 John 1:10** So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.²

^{NRS} **3 John 1:10** So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing in spreading false charges against us. And not content with those charges, he refuses to welcome the friends, and even prevents those who want to do so and expels them from the church.³

Ákóne' bikáá' náá'iniihí óola bik'ésti'go si'á, éi bikáa'gi tsin bijeeh dilidgo fikání halchinii nídíli', áádóó tsits'aa' dílzínii óola t'áá át'ée nít'ée' bik'ésti'go ałdó' si'á, éi biyi' góne' óola ása' éi bááh mána wolyéii bee sikáago bii' siká, áádóó Éran bigish ch'il nahalingo bílátah da'iichiihii ałdó' bii' sitá, ında bee aha'deet'áanii bee tsé bik'e'ashchíigo ałdó' bii' sinil. (Hebrews 9:4)

^{NIV} **Hebrews 9:4** which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant.

^{NRS} **Hebrews 9:4** In it stood the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which there were a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant;

Navajo does not always require more words than English. It can be extremely economical. An example of this is James 1:16.

Shik'isóó ayóó'ánihósh'núinii, nihida'dódleeh lágo. (James 1:16)

^{NIV} **James 1:16** ¶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

¹ Navajo Bible quotations are from *Diyin God Bizaad. The Holy Bible in Navajo*. Revised edition. New York: American Bible Society, 2000.

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³ English Bible quotations marked NRS are from *New Revised Standard Version Bible*. Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

^{NRS} James 1:16 ¶ Do not be deceived, my beloved.

James 1:16 is going to be short in any translation, but notice that in both NIV and NRS the English requires half again as many words as the Navajo (six as opposed to four). 2 Timothy 4:12 is another short verse, with four words in Navajo, but five (NIV) or six (NRS) in English.

Tíkikas éí Éfesasgóó íí'a'. (2 Timothy 4:12)

^{NIV} 2 Timothy 4:12 I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

^{NRS} 2 Timothy 4:12 I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus.