

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET 2018-2019

IMPORTANT: A completed copy of this coversheet MUST be pasted to the beginning of your coursework

DEPARTMENT: Modern Languages, Translation and Interpreting

STUDENT NUMBER: 987939

MODULE CODE and TITLE: MLI210 Translation Workshop – Italian-English

ASSIGNMENT TITLE: MLI210 Translation Workshop – Italian-English Coursework 1

PERMITTED WORD COUNT: 600

ACTUAL WORD COUNT: 595

LECTURER/TUTOR: Dr L.Paci

DEADLINE: 20/03/2019 (4:00pm)

DATE AND TIME SUBMITTED TO TURNITIN: DATE: 19/03/2019 TIME: 18.00

IMPORTANT:

- You **MUST** include your **student number on every page of your coursework AND also on the title page of turnitin**
- Work must be submitted in electronic format (**word document**) by the stated deadline. A penalty of zero will be applied for late submission. ***It is your responsibility to submit the work in the correct format and to ensure that you allow enough time to submit by the deadline.***

DECLARATION

- This is all my own unaided work, and does not contain unreferenced material copied from any other source.
- I understand the College policy on plagiarism as set out in the College of Arts and Humanities for Undergraduate Students', and accept that this assignment may be copied, stored, and used for the purposes of plagiarism detection.
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Student Number 987939

Italy, the collapse of the Morandi Bridge:

All the innumerable maintenance works from '67 until today are proof that something went wrong from the beginning and that someone already knew.



Located in Genoa, the capital of the north-western Italian region of Liguria, Morandi Bridge connected Italy and France, at a length of 3,878 ft. On August 14th 2018 tragedy struck: it crashed into the bed of the Polcevera, the stream that runs through the Ligurian city, and took away the lives of 39 people.

“Resistant to the weight of a torpedo boat”. With these words, an historic local newspaper, Il Secolo XIX, announced the results of the general tests made in 1967, two months before the opening of Morandi Bridge. At that time, tests of great works were passionately narrated as if they were matches of the Italian national football team. “At 7 o'clock yesterday morning 48 big lorries loaded with sand and rubble have reached the viaduct in single file, the two-axles lorries with a load of 140 quintals each; the three-axles ones with 180 quintals each; the four-axle ones with 220 quintals each, for a total of about 900 tonnes”. The span between pylons 10 and 11, which the article proudly celebrated as “the longest in Europe and the second in the world”, has always been the most fragile and has now completely crumbled.

The Morandi Bridge has never been in a good condition. From the design of the project, back in 1961, to its opening, October 1967, almost six years have passed, during which the port of Genoa has doubled in size. Only one year later, in 1968, some interventions were commissioned for “roadway maintenance and structural reinforcement” for over 200 million lire, the Italian currency at the time. In 1973, other interventions
20 caused the “partial use” closure of the structure for fifteen days. In 1978, the road was again resurfaced.

Morandi made a “mistake”. The creator of the work, Engineer Morandi, in 1979 spoke of “unusual wear”. He attributed the cause of the high maintenance costs to the “particular aggressiveness” of the saltiness and polluting substances of the underlying industries. However, according to Giovanna Franco, Professor at the University of Genoa and one of the greatest architectural experts of the twentieth century, Morandi drowned
25 the steel rods in the concrete and “this has made control and maintenance impossible for years”. The influence of external factors, as justified by Morandi, was scarcely significant in the process of deterioration.

In 1993, a technical examination of the bridge discovered a dramatic situation: the oxidation of the internal precompression cables were acute and numerous strands of the rods, consisting of several metal wires wound in a spiral, were sheared or strongly oxidized. New external reinforcement rods were erected but only
30 for the pylons closest to Genoa, excluding those on the sides. The decision not to standardize safety is still a mystery. Meanwhile, between 1981 and 1994, the restoration works cost today's equivalent of 28 million euros. In 1985, for the first time, they were openly requesting urgent reinforcement of the pylons.

There have been 23 years of continuous checks, maintenance, and endless patching. Between 2000 and 2001, in preparation for the Genoa G8, the structure underwent 450 ordinary maintenance operations.
35 Nevertheless, never as many as those of 2008, still undefeated records: 960 patches of various kinds, confirming that perhaps the problem was structural. The last urgent contract for extraordinary maintenance, worth twenty million euros and with only four companies competing, should have started in October. Too late, the bridge could not hold out any longer.

ANALYSIS

The ST medium is an online journal article of “Il Corriere della Sera”, an authoritative Italian broadsheet newspaper. The author of the article is a journalist sent to the site of the collapse of the Morandi bridge. The genre is investigative journalism aimed to inform about actually occurred facts. It is aimed at a broad generic pool of people, with no particular age or gender restrictions.

Mainly, it retraces the series of interventions over the years made to strengthen the structure of the bridge. The ST is divided into 5 paragraphs: in the first two paragraphs, it transcribes a piece of an article from a historical newspaper to demonstrate the positive fame the Bridge had at the end of its realization. Since the TS does not dwell on the details of the collapse, it is possible that the SA already knows context and location. In fact, in the 3° and 4° paragraphs the article focuses on the chronological reconstruction of the interventions to inform the readers that the anomalous deterioration of the bridge was well known, and to enumerate all the additional costs incurred. The last paragraph is complex as it contains several topics: an expert's commentary, the 1993 reinforcement, and finally the last contract for extraordinary maintenance that never took place.

However, the intent is not just to inform there are persuasive elements aimed at making us reflect on the responsibility of those who have not prevented the tragedy. The comments are not always objective, e.g. “quelli sono gli anni peggiori”(28).

The register is mainly formal with some technical terms from building Engineering, such as “cavi interni di precompressione”, “trefoli”, “tiranti”.

The syntactic structure of the text alternates long periods with many subordinates, such as the one at 16 - 19, and 22 - 26, with exceptionally short sentences like those at 10, 19, 25, 51, where the register changes suddenly and becomes colloquial.

STRATEGY

The objective of this translation is to reproduce an article for a training course for International Journalism. My choice focuses on online TT medium, an online article written for an English-speaking public, with no particular gender restrictions.

The format of the TT changes and acquires immediate visual perception:

- ❖ below the title a photograph of the bridge collapsed shows the main object of the article and gives the reader a strong emotion, thus inviting him to read
- ❖ a paragraph in italics is added to contextualize the story
- ❖ the subdivision of the paragraphs changes into 6 sections with a bold title that proclaims their contents

In TT it is necessary to adopt a broader view, for a wider audience. Many Italian cultural references must be explained; therefore in the 1° paragraph it is necessary to “supplement” the details of the tragedy, the geographical location of Genoa and the Polcevera torrent, plus the description of the bridge. The aim of TT is to inform about news relevant outside Italy for the number of victims, and thus to provide students with an example of International Journalism. Newmark’s model of communicative translation, aimed at the transmission of the conceptual meaning of the message, the “equivalent content”, inspired me.

I provide an informative supplementing by “re-inserting” in TT a part of the subtitle present in the original online article.

The celebrative article of 1967 is merged into a single paragraph and appears whole to maintain the contrasting effect with the polemical tone of the rest of the article.

I leave out the details that might confuse the reader because too specific or unfamiliar, i.g. “lo scalo di Pra-Voltri” (18).

The considerable differences between SL and TL and the different purpose of TT require numerous modifications. First, ST presents problems of cohesion as it lacks discursive connectors, often repeats concepts, while interrupts the chronological series of maintenance and takes up previous passages. Regarding the “sequencing”, the Client's request to shorten TT causes “cutting” and condenses six paragraphs conceptually uniform: i.e. the sections concerning the 1993 restoration, Engineer Morandi's analysis with Franco's speech.

In TT the register is more formal than ST:

- without colloquialisms, formal and conceptual repetitions;
- objective point of view;
- adoption of English syntax, with short sentences, possibly in active form;
- simplification of technical terms through “glossing”;

NOTES

- In the title 'Genova' > 'Italy' to give a better-known geographical reference.
- The subtitle is a reset of the section omitted in ST after 13 from the original online journal.
- All verb tenses convert to simple past to give more uniformity to the narrative.
- Typing errors disappear: (3) > 'grossi', (17) > 'durante', (53) > 'lasciati'.
- Omission of repetitions in favour of synonyms: 'questo' (47 - 51); 'fino' (53 - 55); 'continui' (55).
- 'seguiti e narrati' (ST 1) > 'narrated' (TT 10) supplementing 'passionately to explain the reference to Italian football match.
- 'greto' (ST 12) > 'bed' (TT 6) to make the term less abstruse, supplementing 'the stream that runs through the Ligurian city' to explain what 'Polcevera' refers to.
- The idiom 'fila indiana' corresponds to the 'single file' TT (12), according to Collins Dict.
- 'torpediniera' (7) does not exist in TL and is divided into "torpedo boat" (TT 8).
- omission of 'burying himself' (12) because it has no meaning in TL, as it is a rhetorical personification not appropriate to the objective language that I intend to adopt. For the same reason, I omit the other personifications of the bridge: 'è ormai diventato un vecchietto' (38); 'malattia perpetua dell'opera (46).
- idiom 'goduto di buona salute' (14) > 'been in a good condition' (TT 16) to stay as close as possible to the meaning of ST; in this expression I also merged the meaning of 'nasce già usurato' (ST 19) because if it was translated semantically it would not make sense in TL.
- supplementing 'lire' (16) with 'the Italian currency at the time' because TA might ignore

this detail.

- omission of the engraving 18 - 19 'scalo di Pra-Voltri' because not relevant and too specific.
- archaism 'inusitata' simplified in 'unsual' to make the understanding of Morandi's speech more immediate.
- sentence at 30 has an impersonal main verb that introduces a declarative subordinate also impersonal. It has an abstruse meaning and is therefore omitted.
- the technicality 'trefoli' (33) is translated with glossing in 'strands of the rods' (TT 30) and with a supplement 'consisting of several metal wires wound in spiral' to expand the meaning related to construction. For the same reason 'tiranti' (35) is translated with glossing "new external reinforcement rods" (31).
- lines 34-33 omitted because repetitive and not relevant.
- idiom 'infuria il dibattito' (39) is not transcribed because misleading with the main theme
- elimination of colloquialisms: 'qualcosa non va' (21); 'lasciati così come sono' (36); 'tappare questa falla' (50); 'insomma' (51).
- elimination of partial comments: 'Adesso purtroppo sappiamo che fine ha fatto' (10); 'Quelli sono gli anni peggiori' (28).
- Franco's speech (47) is reported in TT in part with direct speech and partly with indirect, to make the section stylistically articulated. I paraphrased line at 45 with 26 with different words that can obtain the same effect.
- the sentence in 48 is composed of a main impersonal verb, a declarative subordinate, a concessive with a further engraved inside. It has no real meaning in Italian because it is too complex and is omitted in TT because it is repetitive of section 32 - 34.
- omission of section 50 - 53 because it repeats section 32 - 34.

- 'ultimo bando, intervento di manutenzione straordinaria, bando a procedura ristretta' (56) is paraphrased with 'last urgent contract for extraordinary maintenance', to combine the two concepts and to avoid repetition.
- union of section 'fino' (53) - 'restauro' (55) with the last section of TS and report it as the last topic of the article to emphasize the final, as the tragedy could almost be avoided.
- Ellipsis 'troppo tardi' (58) is an impressive ending, completed with glossing 'the bridge could not hold out any longer' (40) to better specify the meaning

WEBSITES

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/>

<https://www.thesaurus.com/>

<http://www.treccani.it/>

<https://context.reverso.net/>

source of the photography:

<https://gds.it/articoli/cronaca/2018/08/15/crollo-del-ponte-morandi-a-genova-tre-bambini-tra-le-vittime-accertate-finora-da2a68ae-2abc-4805-aebb-4ea57c5bfbb2/>