

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: Italian - English Coursework 2

PERMITTED WORD COUNT: 1700

ACTUAL WORD COUNT: 1843

LECTURER/TUTOR: Dr L.Paci

DEADLINE: 07/05/2019 (4:00pm)

DATE AND TIME SUBMITTED TO TURNITIN: DATE: 06/05/2019 TIME: 9pm

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ITALY, CLIMATE CHANGE MINIMIZED TO 'BAD WEATHER'



Flooded city near Rome

The effects of climate change often occupy the front pages of Italian newspapers, but are presented as 'sudden downpours', 'heat waves', and 'floods'. Italian politicians and the media together say little can be done against these atmospheric phenomena. They recommend to stay at home, at most, and, when the storms have passed, they speculate to gain votes. Italians should instead look for scientific causes and recognize the responsibilities of both politics and companies that have been burning polluting fuels for years, damaging the environment and the health of the citizens.

Not tomorrow, today

Scientists claim that cataclysms are increasingly frequent due to climate change. The IPCC - UN scientific arm- has outlined clear solutions: abandoning fossil fuels, coal oil and gas, and accelerating the transition to renewable energy. In addition to reducing meat consumption and stopping deforestation, obviously.

Two thousand kilometers on foot

Recently, protest movements have sprung up from all over the world. In Italy *#InCamminoperilClima* organized a march to draw public attention to climate change. From Rome, the 'climate pilgrims' arrived in Katowice, Poland, to protest peacefully at the annual
15 Climate Conference COP24.

Everybody can make the difference

One of the 'pilgrims', the Philippine AG, in 2013 lost almost all of his family and friends because of typhoon Haiyan, but he brought a message of hope in climate preservation. The 'pilgrims' were warmly welcomed by hundreds of Italian people, students, mayors, bishops, and local communities.

The meeting with Assicurazioni Generali

20 As one of the largest Italian insurance groups, Generali has been at the center of an international campaign to stop investing in coal, the most polluting source of energy that exists. The 'pilgrims' reiterated that coal pollution causes climate disasters and proposed Generali to change their policy.

They simply refer to 'bad weather'

On the contrary, Italian Politicians continue to blame each other's responsibilities in the
25 environmental protection of the territory. Italian Minister of the Interior Matteo Salvini, speaking at a press conference in an area affected by floods, attributed the cause to 'too many years of neglect and some trivial environmentalism propaganda'.



River overflowed in Belluno, Northern Italy

Climate changes never mentioned

Salvini, who is also the current leader of the right-wing populist party Lega Nord, referred to the bill presented by his party 'Provisions for the maintenance of river beds'. According to
30 that, in Italy the accumulation of sediments in river beds and the consequent raising of the water level cause every year many disasters. Sadly, it does not consider the global problem of climate change at all and imputes this kind of tragedy to the bad management of previous governments. Salvini sparked controversy also because he wore the uniform of the Italian Emergency and Disaster Relief Department, to show his presence on the front line.

Salvini voted against the limitation of global warming

35 In 2009, Salvini's Lega Nord voted in the Senate a denial resolution on the subject of climate change, thus going against what was unanimously supported by the scientific community. More recently, while Pope Francis and companies like Apple accepted the 2016 Paris Agreements as turning point in the fight against climate change, Salvini rejected it.



Salvini welcomed Trump's election

"Thanks to Trump, the climate debate is now serious again", he said. Perhaps Salvini ignores
40 the fact that Trump himself said he wants to continue to burn coal.

Is Lega Nord a denialist party on climate change?

Italians should know the real position of their politicians on this issue addressed by
international press as a dramatic emergency to be resolved with appropriate legislative
measures. Minister Salvini should clarify whether he intends to continue to blame some
'trivial environmentalism propaganda' or if he wants to finally ratify the warning of the
45 scientists.

ANALYSIS

The ST is an article entirely reported from the online journal of *Greenpeace*, a global volunteer organization that promotes awareness campaigns for environmental protection.

An activist, responsible for the Italian section of *Greenpeace*, is the author; the target is a broad generic basin of Italians, with no particular age or gender restrictions.

The main topic concerns the approach to climate change in Italy and is divided in three thematic sections. The first four paragraphs highlight the trivialization of the problem by Italian politics and state that the real matter is not about 'bad weather' but the consequences of global changes. From the 5th to 8th, the Italian initiative of the protest march is presented as a positive sign. In the last part, the actions of the Italian government and, in particular, that of Salvini, are condemned for their denialist assumptions on the real causes of the environmental disasters that afflict Italy.

It is an argumentative text as the information provided is used to support the thesis of the NGO organization on the problematic Italian situation and to convince the reader to react. The ST contains many references to Italian current events since its rhetorical reasoning aims to influence the recipient's psychology. The language adopted is direct, critical, and ironic: 'Più facile allora chiamarlo maltempo'; 'Senza mai parlare delle vere cause e delle possibili soluzioni, sia chiaro, perché con quelle non si guadagnano voti'; 'Forse non gli è chiaro che il conto lo stanno presentando i cambiamenti climatici, non l'alberello'. The persuasive intent is evident.

The register is formal but with numerous colloquial constructs and idioms: 'lasciando le conseguenze sulle spalle, e sui polmoni, dei cittadini'; 'è alle porte'. Many sentences lack the main verb: 'oltre che diminuire il consumo di carne e fermare la deforestazione'. Long periods with many subordinates, such as 5-7, 39-42, 66-68, alternate with short sentences with strong communicative impact: 'Non domani, oggi. Senza mezzi termini.'

STRATEGY

The aim of this translation is to produce an article for a British online journal on environmentalism, written for an English-speaking public, without any particular gender restrictions.

The inspiration for the TT format was the template of online magazines with similar political campaign topic. Changes to capture the reader's attention consist of:

- inclusion of photographs about the effects of climate change, as support of the ecological thesis;
- photograph of Salvini to identify the minister to the foreign public
- splitting of the TT in shorter but thematically cohesive paragraphs
- insertion of text frames that exemplify the content of the paragraphs and give dynamism to the words flow

In the TT, the adaptations are dictated by the brief that asks for a summary and a contextualization of the contents. The aim is to provide to the British audience a general picture of the Italian approach to climate change, of the initiatives in progress, and convince them of Italian politics' incorrect behavior.

I decided to keep the original spirit of the ST but to modify some features to produce a similar response. The implicit rhetorical meaning, as well as many Italian cultural references, must be explained according to the TL discoursal conventions.

Nida's three-stage system of translation has guided the process of analysis, transfer of meaning and semantic reformulation. Using Newmark's communicative translation, the accuracy of the communication of the ST message and the focus on the TT reader obtain the same persuasive effect as the ST.

The different socio-cultural context of the TT requires additional information on 'Climate Pilgrims', *Assicurazioni Generali*, and the figure of Salvini. Moreover, since the ST dates back to November 2018, I investigated that the march actually ended and I updated the TT.

The press release at 49-50 was particularly difficult to be translated into English for the reference, not mentioned in the ST, to the bill proposed by Salvini and for the colloquial 'ambientalismo da salotto'.

Being the ST and the TT similar for online media, topic and purpose, the style and vocabulary are maintained. The TT three thematic sequences support the ST thesis and explain the political implication. But details too specific or unfamiliar, e.g. 'Leone di Trieste' (49) are left out so as not to alienate the reader. In TT, colloquialisms as 'il tutto, a detta degli scienziati, va fatto adesso', 'non ci sono vie di mezzo', 'ognuno deve far la sua parte', and

formal-conceptual repetitions are omitted. I adopt the English syntactic structure with short sentences, possibly in an active form.

NOTES

- In TT title, 'Italy' give an immediate geographical reference.
- 'bad weather' faithfully reflects the meaning sense and reveals the foreign origin of the concept.
- TT 1st paragraph summarizes the first 4 paragraphs of the ST.
- 'sudden downpours' (2) configures the slang expression 'bombe d'aqua', difficult to translate with a formal translation.
- Omission of repetition in line 8 and 12: maltempo, bombe d'acqua, ondate di calore' summarized in 'cataclysms' (8).
- Semantic rhetorical figure 'lasciando le conseguenze sulle spalle, e sui polmoni, dei cittadini' reduced because not particularly significant.
- Common expression 'verso un mondo 100% rinnovabile' > paraphrase: 'transition to renewable energy'(10).

- 'Senza mezzi termini' could be translated as 'bountly', but would need a main verb, which is absent in line 17 (ST).
- Colloquial expression 19-20 (ST) synthesized and placed in the TT 3rd thematic section, lines 24-25.
- 'Latitante' is culturally significant in Italian but not the same way in English.
- TT 3rd paragraph presents supplementing; I transcribe the name of the march in Italian to give a sense of authenticity.
- ST 5th paragraph is maintained because it represents the positive counterpart, the correct alternative promoted by the ST.
- Omission of the 1st plural person, e.g.: 'tutti noi, con le nostre scelte' (38), 'noi saremmo contenti' (63) since in the TT the reader's involvement is not aimed at interfering in his own national policy, as in the ST, but has a more informative purpose.
- Omission of the semantic rhetorical figure 'giocano un ruolo decisivo nella partita' that is taken from sports vocabulary and repeated in l.46.
- 'Leone di Trieste' (41): rhetorical figure 'autonomasia' which replaces the own name of *Assicurazioni Generali* with the common name of the animal that appears in its commercial logo and of the city where it has administrative headquarters. It is not present in the TT as it is a cultural reference of little relevance.
- I updated the article to 2019 and modified the temporal references, as 'arriverà' (24); 'la COP24 è alle porte' (46).

- The phrase 49-50 (ST) is rich in cultural references and emblematic of the political thought criticized by *Greenpeace*. 'Ambientalismo da salotto' is a slang expression that Salvini used to criticize environmentalists; I chose to translate it into 'trivial environmentalism propaganda' to emphasize its frivolous and populist nature. 'Che non ti fanno toccare l'albero nell'alveo, ed ecco che l'alberello ti presenta il conto': Salvini minimizes the cataclysm, brings it back to the not-carried-out cleaning of the riverbed and blames environmentalists to hinder it. I do not entirely relate the direct speech but I insert supplementing about the bill that may not be known abroad.
- 'Tuta della protezione civile' (10): implicit reference to the controversy on the use that Salvini made of the uniform of that department, which is not tied to any party but is often used as a propaganda tool. I mention this in TT lines 33-34 because it is an evidence of his politically incorrect behavior.
- I add Trump's photography because he is a well-known politician that can immediately draws the attention of the British audience and determine in the TT an appropriate political implication.
- I transform the rhetorical question 63-64 (ST) into frame title taking inspiration from news blogs that ask illustrative and summary questions.

Webography

<https://www.greenpeace.org/italy/storia/3858/non-chiamatelo-maltempo/>

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

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Photos:

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