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| **Quotations:**Original version | **Quotations:**Italian translation | Comparative analysis |
| “But observe the smiles on the upturned faces of those around us. It remarkable how theatrical man-made light can be once sunlight has begun to fade, how it can affect us emotionally, even now, at the start of the twenty-first century, in cities as large and bright as this one.” | “Ma osservi i sorrisi sulle face rivolte verso l’alto delle persone che ci circondano. È incredibile quanto possano essere teatrali le luci artificiali una volta che la luce del sole è declinata, come possano toccare le emozioni, ancora adesso, all’inizio del ventunesimo secolo, in città grandi e luminose come questa.” | The Italian version is less evocative; it does not evoke clear images like the English version. |
| **Reason for choice:**The sentence is a **comparison between Pakistan and America**. |
| **Analysis:**The time is important; indeed Changez confirms that they are in the 21st century. The word “theatrical” is an exaggeration in order to focus the attention. In the sentence light is important. There is a return to the present: Changez speaks with the interlocutor about the lights in Lahore. The reader can understand that those lights have an emotional impact; it is not present in America. “Light”, “sunlight”, “bright” are all words of the same semantic sphere. There is a contrast between natural light and artificial light created by men. He says “observe”, so sight become important. The verb “to affect” implies a sort of uncontrolled feeling. |
| **Possible conclusion:**The intelligent reader can understand that Pakistan has got a diverse emotional impact. He can also realize that Pakistan is more backward than America. |
| “I wanted to dress as I imagined they would be dressed.” | “I wanted to dress as I imagined they would be dressed.” | The Italian version does not suggest the same sensation, it is just an affirmation. |
| **Reason for choice:**The protagonist wills are **to seem American** and to approach himself to a new culture. |
| **Analysis:**Changez is worried about the judgment of the others. The repetition of the word “dress-dressed” and the alliteration of letters “w”, “s” and “d” make this expression seems a tongue-twister, therefore they give the reader the aspect of something not serious. |
| **Possible conclusion:**The total effect is that Changez wants to draw himself near to a new culture, not only mentally but even physically. |
| “It was a testament to the open-mindedness and-that overused word- cosmopolitan nature of New York […]” | “È una conferma dell’apertura mentale e della natura cosmopolita-che parola abusata- di New York”. | The English word “testament” gives the idea of a tangible consequence. Its Italian translation is less expressive.In the Italian version the verbs are used at the present form. |
| **Reason for choice:**This expression is about **cosmopolitanism in New York**.  |
| **Analysis:**“Cosmopolitan” is an adjective repeated many times in the book. It shows one of the most important themes of the novel. The word “testament” reminds the reader of the semantic sphere of religion. He talks about something that happened in the past. He uses the simple past of the verb “to be”, so the reader could understand that something may has changed. This is underlined by the expression “that overused word”; a lapidary sentence about the new real close spirit of New York. |
| **Possible conclusion:**The impression is that Changez sees New York as a cosmopolitan city, but at the same time he says that this word is overused from people.  |
| “I felt at home.” | “Mi sentivo a casa.” | There are no substantial differences in the two versions.  |
| **Reason for choice:**The reference above gives the reader an idea about **Changez’s feelings.** |
| **Analysis:**This is a short, but very significant sentence. The choice of simple past underlines a conclusion, he felt at home, but now it has changed. This quotation gives a sense of melancholy and sadness. |
| **Possible conclusion:**Changez felt himself at home because he recognized some characteristics of his original country and he found relations with his culture and traditions. So, the place becomes familiar for him. |
| “Economy’s falling apart though, no? Corruption, dictatorship, the rich living like princes while everyone else suffers. Solid people don’t get me wrong. I like Pakistanis. But the elite have raped that pale well and good, right? And fundamentalism. You guys have got some serious problems with fundamentalism.” | “L’economia è sull’orlo del collasso, non è vero? Corruzione, dittatura, I ricchi che vivono come principi mentre tutti gli altri soffrono. Gente solida, non mi fraintenda. I Pakistani mi piacciono. Ma l’èlite ha fatto una vera e propria razzia, giusto? E poi il fondamentalismo. Laggiù avete seri problemi con il fondamentalismo.” | The Italian version is more formal (for example “you guys” is not translate), therefore it seems less ironical and less offensive. |
| **Reason for choice:**The motivation is to show two **different way of thinking**, one Pakistani and the other American. In addition in this sentence are employed Pakistani **stereotypes**. |
| **Analysis:**This a short monologue of Erica’s father. It is a direct way to speak. Changez is silenced by him. There are rhetorical questions and he seems to attack Changez and makes him not capable of defending himself. Erica’s dad uses a negative tone and he concerns American stereotypes. The sentence: “solid people don’t get me wrong. I like Pakistanis.” seems an excuse, Erica’s dad is on the defensive and at the same time he is trying to silence the protagonist. The verb to rape has a strong significance, and it is might used to show the scorn of Erica’s father. The adjective “solid” is usually connected to things; he can be interpreted like an insulting form.  |
| **Possible conclusion:**Erica’s father based his considerations on stereotypes and prejudices. He seemed to attack Changez and the intelligent reader can understand that, as all the others men, Erica’s dad distrusts the unknown and different cultures.  |