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| **Quotations:**Original version | **Quotations:**Italian translation | Comparative analysis |
| “I attempted to act and speak, as my dignity would permit, more like an American.” | “Feci il possibile, compatibilmente con la mia dignità, per agire e parlare come un Americano.” | The two versions are similar.The Italian translation uses a language more complex and the two verbs “per agire” e “parlare” are not linked to the principal verb “feci il possible”.In the original text, the verbs “to act” and “speak” are near to the principal verb “attempted”. |
| **Reason for choice:** The quotation shows how the protagonist wants to **approach himself to a new culture.** |
| **Analysis:**What explains his will is linguistically expressed by “...more like an American”. The impression is that the protagonist wants to look like an American. |
| **Possible conclusion:**The protagonist wants to follow his American dream and, to do that, he moves himself away from his original culture.  |
| “You are so foreign.” | “come sei straniero.” | The Original and the Italian versions are very similar.The pronoun “you”, in the English text, reinforces the idea and it gives also more importance to the interlocutor. The Italian version is less evocative. In England there are two nouns: “Stranger” and “foreigner” that in Italian have the same translation “straniero”.  |
| **Reason for choice:**The expression underlines the theme of **discrimination** and it focuses the reader’s attention to the **diversity**.  |
| **Analysis:**The adjective “foreign” is the main focus of attention. The feeling is that there is a tangible diversity that all men can feel. |
| **Possible conclusion:**The protagonist is against discrimination, but at the same time he understands that all people judge. Everyone can consider other people as foreign for the reason that they are diverse. |
| “I smiled. Yes, despicable as it may sound, my initial reaction was to be remarkably pleasant.” | “E allora sorrisi. Sì, per quanto possa apparire deprecabile, la mia prima reazione fu di notevole compiacimento.” | The two versions are similar. In the original version “pleasant” is written as an adjective, while in the Italian text the translator uses the noun “compiacimento”.  |
| **Reason for choice:**The sentence explains how Changez reacts to the twin towers attack. This is **the start of Changez’s changing**. |
| **Analysis:**“I smiled” is a very short sentence that gives the reader an image of what Changez did. The adjective “remarkably” strengthens the sentence’s effect.  |
| **Possible conclusion:**The protagonist smiled because he sees a symbolism. America is not powerful as it seems. This could not be seen as a good reaction by Americans. |
| “I was caught up in the symbolism of it all, the fact that someone had so visibly brought America to her knees.” | “ero colpito dal simbolismo della cosa, dal fatto che qualcuno fosse riuscito a mettere in ginocchio gli Stati Uniti in modo tanto smaccato.” | The two version are similar. It does not seem there are many different style.While in the English version Hamid uses the adverb “so visibly”, in the Italian translation there is an adverbial phrase “in modo tanto smaccato”.In the Italian one America is called “Stati Uniti”: it may suggests a sort of union that in the English version does not express.  |
| **Reason for choice:**There is an important **symbolism**, the twin towers collapse represent the America’s collapse.  |
| **Analysis:**“Symbolism” is the most important word in the sentence: it explains what Changez thinks about the attack.There is also a personification of America: “someone had so visibly brought America to her knees”. |
| **Possible conclusion:**The total effect is that the twin towers attack represent America’s attack. Changez is “happy” because one of the most important power was destroyed by only one person. America changed, it was attacked by a Pakistani that brought her to her knees. |
| “Your tone is curt; I can see that I have offended you, angered you even.” | “Che tono brusco; vedo che l’ho offesa, anzi l’ho fatta arrabbiare.” | There are no differences in the style of the two versions.The use of the pronoun “you” in the English text creates a direct contact with the interlocutor. |
| **Reason for choice:**This expression highlights the **interlocutor’s reaction** to Changez’s words.  |
| **Analysis:**There is a climax: “I have offended you, angered even”.Through this sentence, the intelligent reader can moreover understand that there is an interlocutor. |
| **Possible conclusion:**The intelligent reader can understand that the interlocutor does not comprehend the narrator’s point of view and his reaction. The comprehension between people from different countries and with different cultures is too difficult. |