**­­­­­­­C. Altobelli, G. Zanon 5BLS**

**RELEVANT QUOTATION ON THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST**

CHAPTER 1

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| QuotationsOriginal version | Quotations*Italian translation* | Comparative analysis |
| “Do not be frightened by my beard: I am a lover of America.” | “Non si faccia spaventare dalla mia barba: io amo l’America.” | * In the Italian version there is the use of the formal form: “Non si faccia spaventare”.
* In the English version the novelist used the expression “I am a lover America” (noun). On the contrary in the Italian version there is the expression “io amo l’America”(verb).
 |
| Reason for choice: the quotation introduces the theme of fear caused by stereotypes. |
| Analysis:The quotation is fundamental because introduces through the word “beard” the problem of inferring a specific identity on the basis of outer identification. Indeed the “beard” is usually associated to an Islamic fundamentalist. As a result the interlocutor may be frightened by Changez’s aspect. Changez feels obliged to underline that he is a “lover of America”. |
| Possible conclusion:The Italian version conveys a stronger feeling than the original one, because through the use of the verb “to love” seems a spontaneous declaration.  |
| “You seemed to be on a *mission*” | “Lei pareva in missione” | * In the Italian version there is the use of the formal form: “lei”.
* The verb “to be” is missing in the Italian version.
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation gives the reader the first relevant information about Changez’s interlocutor. |
| Analysis:The novelist puts Changez’s ability to observe and read between the lines into focus. The word “mission” reminds religion: in its field mission employ a group of people sent by a church to carry on religious tasks in other countries. On the other hand “mission” can also be used in the semantic field of war: a country imposing its supremacy. |
| Possible conclusion:The original version provides a sense of enchantment: indeed the verb “to be ” conveys the idea of an emotional involvement. |
| “You’re polished, well-dressed. You have this sophisticated accent” | “Lei è distinto, benvestito. Ha questo accento sofisticato” | * In the Italian version there is the use of the formal form: “lei”.
* The adjective “polished” is translated with “distinto”: it is more generic.
 |
| Reason for choice: the quotation is interesting because it gives a lot of importance to appearance.  |
| Analysis:The semantic filed adopted reminds the sense of sight and hearing. The adjective “polished” gives the idea of a well- educated person. In addiction the person also looks good: he is “well-dressed”. On the hearing level he has a “sophisticated accent”: he may be a civilized person. |
| Possible conclusion:The original version gives a more accurate description of Changez, because the linguistic form used is more detailed.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| “At Princeton, I conducted myself in public like a young prince, generous and carefree. But I also, as quietly as I could, held down three on-campus jobs – in infrequently visited locations, such as the library of the Program in Near Eastern Studies – and prepared for my classes throughout the night. Most people I met were taken in by my public persona.” | “A Princeton in pubblico mi atteggiavo a principino, ero prodigo e spensierato. Però facevo anche, nel modo più discreto possibile, tre lavori nel campus, in angoli poco frequentati, come la biblioteca del Programma di studi del Vicino Oriente, e studiavo di notte. La maggior parte delle persone che conoscevo abboccavano al mio personaggio.” | * In the original version Changez uses the verb “to conduct”: it underlines Changez’s pride looking like a prince. On the other hand, in the Italian version, Changez uses the verb “atteggiarsi”: it provides a negative impression.
 |
| Reason for choice: Changez explains his social status |
| Analysis:At Princeton University, he admits playing the role of the Pakistani Prince: he isnot able to reconcile the social identities of the Pakistani and the international student. Changez seems to feel the obligation to be either the one or the other and hence puts his personal identity, which would reflect both social identities, aside. In return, he apparently feels the need to play his roles, his social identities, to perfection and thus takes on different personae. |
| Possible conclusion:Comparing the two quotations it is easy to see how the Italian version puts into focus a more negative aspect of Changez’s behavior.  |
| “The men and women -yes, the women, too-of my household are working people, professionals.” | “Gli uomini e le donne, sì, anche le donne della mia famiglia sono gente che lavora, professionisti.” | * In the Italian version there is a different punctuation.
* The word “sì ” acquires a great importance: it results a little aggressive
 |
| Reason for choice: the quotation recalls the theme of stereotypes. |
| Analysis:Changez is talking about his family: each member of it works. He underlines to the American interlocutor that also the women have a job. The objective is to destroy a western stereotype: Islamic women cannot work. The protagonist wants also to put into focus that they are not only working people, but they are professionals. |
| Possible conclusion:The novelist’s goal is to reveal that women are not always discriminated in Pakistan.  |

CHAPTER 2

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| QuotationsOriginal version | Quotations*Italian translation* | Comparative analysis |
|  Do you see those girls, walking there, in jeans specked with paint? Yes, they are attractive. And how different they look from the women of that family sitting at the table beside ours, in their traditional dress. | Vede quelle ragazze che camminano laggiù, in jeans chiazzati di vernice? Sì, sono davvero attraenti. E che aspetto diverso dalle donne della famiglia seduta al tavolo accanto al nostro, nei loro abiti tradizionali. | * In the Italian version there is the use of the formal form.
* In the original version the word “there” makes the girls seem close to the narrator. On the contrary “laggiù” used in the Italian version conveys a sense of distance.
* In the Italian version the adjective “attraenti” is emphasized by the adverb “davvero”.
 |
| Reason for choice: Changez starts a comparison between his Pakistani culture and the American one by analyzing people’s wearing. |
| Analysis:Changez compares two American girls with some Pakistani women sitting near him and finds them “different” because of their outfit. Changez describes the American girls wearing Jeans “attractive” unlike the women “in their traditionally dress”. The quotation underlines the different custom of Pakistan and America: Pakistani women has to follow a specific dress code that does not allow them to show their skin. Islamic rules of covering are intended to protect and guard dignity and honour.  |
| Possible conclusion:The narrator’s goal is to make the reader understand that Changez and his America interlocutor are attracted by the same thing: actually, they are not so different. |
| When I first saw Erica, I could not prevent myself from offering to carry her backpack- so stunning *regal* was she. Her hair was piled up like a tiara on her head [...] | Quando vidi per la prima volta Erica non riuscii a trattenermi e le offrii di portarle lo zaino, era così incredibilmente *regale*. I suoi capelli erano raccolti sulla testa come una tiara […] | * In the original version the use of the verb “to prevent” provides the idea of making a thing impossible to happen. in the Italian version the verb used “trattenere” conveys the will of interpose an obstacle between the character and his objective.
* In both versions is adopted a simile ( English version:“Her hair was piled up like a tiara on her head”; translated version: “. I suoi capelli erano raccolti sulla testa come una tiara”)
 |
| Reason for choice: The narrator presents a new character: Erica.  |
| Analysis:Changez is telling about the first time he saw Erica. Changez’s admiration appears immediately clear: the use of the words “regal” and “tiara” recalls something divine. It leads the reader to hypothesize Changez’ sense of inferiority in front of the girl: indeed he offers his help to “carry her backpack”. |
| Possible conclusion:The original quotation conveys a stronger feeling than the Italian one because of the lexicon used.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I will admit that there were details which annoyed me. The ease with which they parted with money, for example, thinking nothing of the occasional – but not altogether infrequent – meal costing perhaps fifty dollars a head. | Devo ammettere che determinati dettagli mi infastidivano. Ad esempio la leggerezza con cui si separavano dal denaro, senza preoccuparsi per occasionali, ma non rarissimi, pasti a cinquanta dollari a testa. | * The English version uses the future tense, whereas the Italian version uses the present simple.
* In the original version the verb “to ease” conveys the idea of an ordinary action;in the Italian version the verb used “leggerezza” expresses a sense of frivolousness.
 |
| Reason for choice: the quotation presents the theme of different classes. |
| Analysis:Changez presents two different social classes: the upper class, which his friends belong to, and the lower/middle class, represented by himself. He does not approve the behaviour of his company because of their carelessly spending money. |
| Possible conclusion:The quotation highlights the different conception of money between |
| When my turn came, I said I hope one day to be the dictator of an Islamic republic with nuclear capability; the others appeared shocked, and I was forced to explain that I had been joking. | Quando venne il mio turno, dissi che avrei voluto diventare il dittatore di una repubblica islamica dotata di un arsenale nucleare; gli altri sembrarono scioccati,e mi toccò spiegare che stavo scherzando. | * The verb “to force”, used in the original version, sounds like an obligation; on the other hand the Italian verb “toccare” expresses a sense of resignation.
* It does not seem there are many different style.
 |
| Reason for choice: the quotation concerns the theme of stereotypes. |
| Analysis:Changez is ironic about his Pakistani being: he says that he would be “the dictator of an Islamic republic with nuclear capability”. But his friends do not understand he was joking and they appear shocked. The theme of stereotypes comes to surface: people always classify other people according to characteristics that will distinguish the others from themselves. The other is usually looked with suspicion. |
| Possible conclusion:Both the quotations convey a sense of discomfort. The reader can understand, reading the quotation, that people have a different reaction in front of different people. |
| Yet they are exposing only the flesh of the neck, the face, and the lower three-quarters of the arm! It is the effect of scarcity; one’s rules of propriety make one thirst for the improper. | Eppure non mostrano che il collo, il viso e i tre quarti inferiori delle braccia! È l’effetto della penuria; le nostre stesse regole di decoro ci rendono affamati di indecoroso. | * The original language seems to favour the use of a nominal style in part of the quotation.
* The English version uses the present continuous tense, instead the Italian version uses the present simple: in the first case the action seems to protract in time, while the second quotation expresses an usual action.
* It does not seem there are many different style.
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation presents a comparison between different cultures. |
| Analysis:The difference between Pakistani and American cultures is put into focus. Indeed the narrator wants to emphasize the different conception of women’s body: in Pakistan women has to wear *ħijāb* and *Burquas* that do not leave to see the skin. Moreover he touches the topic of sexuality by expressing the desire created by the censure. |
| Possible conclusion:The narrator’s aim is to make the reader understand that desire descend from the forbidden and the research of the pleasure, it is the pleasure itself. |

CHAPTER 3

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| QuotationsOriginal version | Quotations*Italian translation* | Comparative analysis |
|  I was never an American; I was *immediately* a New Yorker. | Non ero mai stato americano, mi ritrovai ad essere *immediatamente* newyorkese. | * The Italian expression “ritrovarsi ad essere” provides the idea of something unexpected.
* the verb “to be” describes a quality, actually something that characterizes the protagonist.
 |
| Reason for choice: the quotation describes Changez’s first impression of New York. |
| Analysis:Since the protagonist has been in America he has never feel at home. Having moved to New York City because of his new job, Changez feels very comfortable living in this multicultural city. Because of this social and cultural context, no one seems to identify him as foreign or not being a New Yorker.  |
| Possible conclusion:The original version expresses a context in which Changez feels at ease, on the contrary the Italian version seems to present a new situation for the protagonist who has a positive reaction. |
| Who would invade and colonize America were illiterate barbarians. | Coloro che avrebbero invaso e colonizzato l’America erano barbari analfabeti. | * The pronoun “who” seems to be more specific than the Italian form “coloro”.
* In both the versions the verbal tense used is the first conditional (congiuntivo presente)
* It does not seem there are many different style.
 |
| Reason for choice: the quotation analyses the origins of a culture and destroys the myth of the superiority of America. |
| Analysis:As it has been said in the previous paragraph Changez destroys the myth of the superiority of America: he explains that the first American settlers were illiterate. It contest the thesis of America as “*mighty civilization the world has ever known*”. |
| Possible conclusion:The quotation provides the concept that nothing is perfect or unbeatable.  |
| There a vice president by the name of Sherman […] laid out the ethos of our new outfit.“We’re a meritocracy,” he said. “We believe in being the best.[…]” | Lì un manager di nome Sherman […] ci espose l’ethos del nostro nuovo posto di lavoro.“Noi siamo una meritocrazia,” –disse. – “Crediamo nell’essere i migliori. […]” | * The word “outfit” is translated with the term “lavoro” in the Italian version: indeed it proper meaning would be “squadra” o “gruppo”.
* In both the versions the plural pronoun “we” and “ci” makes the reader understand that people are at the same level.
* The original version presents in the last sentence an alliteration of the letter “b”: it emphasizes the sense of power.
 |
| Reason for choice: This quotation shows the basis of the America society: meritocracy. |
| Analysis:the quotation describes Changez’s first day’s work: a manager is laying out the ethos of the job. Is interesting to notice the use of the word “ethos” that remind to the semantic field of morality.  |
| Possible conclusion:The narrator’s aim is to make the reader understand the importance of labour for the Americans: it appears immediately clear that America bases its economy on fundamentalism. |
| Like Pakistan, America is, after all, a former of English colony, and it stands to reason, therefore, that an Anglicized accent may in your country continue to be associated with wealth and power, just as it is in mine.  | Dopotutto anche gli Stati Uniti sono, come il Pakistan, una ex colonia inglese, e non è quindi così ingiustificato se un accento anglicizzato nel vostro paese continua ad essere associato alla ricchezza e al potere, come nel mio. | * In the original version Changez speaks about “America”, that is to say the whole continent;
* In the Italian version he says “Stati Uniti”: the area of interest and his corresponding mentality is definite.
* The form “may” indicates a possibility, while the Italian verb at present simple “continua” is an affirmation.
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation it is a recall to the theme of different cultures meeting. |
| Analysis:Changez compares Pakistan with America and puts them on the same level: they have common origins. The protagonist explains why both in America and in Pakistan “an Anglicized accent continue to be associated with wealth and power”. Indeed England was one of the most powerful countries of the epoch when colonized America.  |
| Possible conclusion:Changez show how stereotypes influence people: the “Anglicized accent”confers a specific identity of well-read. |
| My firm’s impressive offices made me *proud*. | Gli spettacolari uffici dell’azienda mi rendevano *orgoglioso*. | * “Impressive” conveys the idea of something you could not forget;
* “spettacolari” provides a sense of magnificence and admiration.
* In the English version the verbal tense used is the past simple: it indicates an action concluded in the past.
* The Italian tense “imperfetto” suggest an action in progress in the past.
 |
| Reason for choice: Changez’s double identity. |
| Analysis:Changez shows his American identity: he is proud of Underwood Samson. Once again it recalls the theme of Changez duble identity: indeed he is not able to reconcile his Pakistani being and his American self. |
| Possible conclusion:The use of the word “impressive” confers to the quotation a more solemn tone than in the Italian version. |

CHAPTER 4

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| QuotationsOriginal version | Quotations*Italian translation* | Comparative analysis |
| It was a testament to the open-mindedness and – that overused word – *cosmopolitan* nature of New York in those days that I felt completely comfortable on the subway in this attire. | È una conferma dell’apertura mentale e ella natura *cosmopolita* – che parola abusata – di New York in quei giorni il fatto che mi sentissi del tutto a mio agio in metropolitana vestito in quel modo. | * In the English version he uses the simple past of the verb “to be”, so the reader could understand that something may has changed.
 |
| Reason for choice: the quotation exalts the multicultural context of New York. |
| Analysis:“Cosmopolitan” is an adjective that describes a context in which Changez feels at ease. The word “testament” reminds the reader of the semantic field of religion. Changez’s American identity comes to surface. |
| Possible conclusion:the English quotation may make the reader think that something is changed because of the use of simple past. The Italian version does not convey this sensation. |
| I wanted to dress as I imagined they would be dressed.  | Volevo essere vestito nel modo in cui immaginavo sarebbero stati vestiti loro. | * The English quotation adopts the past simple tense, while the Italian version uses the “indicativo”.
* In Both the two version the verb “to want” (“volere”) implies a solid intention from the protagonist to reach his aim.
 |
| Reason for choice: Cultural differences. |
| Analysis:He does not how to dress for meting Erica’s parents and he tries to imagine their expectations: appears immediately clear how importance is given to physical aspect.  |
| Possible conclusion:Changez’s decision of wearing the traditional kurta and jeans for the dinner as a symbol of the two cultures meeting. |
| Or perhaps it was because a spacious bedroom in a prestigious apartment on the Upper East Side was, in American terms, the socioeconomic equivalent of a spacious bedroom in a prestigious house in Gulberg, such as the one in which I had grown up. | O forse perché una spaziosa camera da letto in un prestigioso appartamento nell’Upper East Side era, in termini americani, l’equivalente socio-economico di una spaziosa camera da letto in una prestigiosa casa a Gulberg come quella in cui ero cresciuto.  |  |
| Reason for choice: the quotation recalls the theme of different economic classes |
| Analysis:Changez is invited at Erica’s home in the Hamptons. The places  *Hamptons* and the *Upper East Side* are synonymous of wealth and represent the upper class. On the other hand Changez is the emblem of middle class, furthermore declined.  |
| Possible conclusion:The narrator’s aim is to present  |
| Erica’s father had asked me how things were back home, and I replied that were quite good, thank you, when he said, “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 has raped that place well and good, right? And fundamentalism. You guys have got some serious problems with fundamentalism.”  | Il padre di Erica mi aveva chiesto come andavano le cose dalle mie parti e io avevo risposto che andava tutto bene, grazie, quando lui disse: “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’élite ha fatto una vera e propria razzia, giusto? E poi il fondamentalismo. Laggiù avete seri problemi col fondamentalismo.” | * The two quotations present a different verbal tense: the English version uses the simple past, while the italian version uses the “passato prossimo”.
* The expression “back home” provides a sense of familiar than the generic italian expression “dale tue parti”.
* The word “raped” has a strong meaning: it is usually used to indicate a sexual violence. In this context an act of spoiling or destroying on a large scale.
* The Italian translation is interpreted with this second connotation.
 |
| Reason for choice: the quotation recalls to the theme of stereotypes. |
| Analysis:Erica’s father annoys Changez with stereotypical views on Pakistan. The intelligent reader understands that the father's question to Changez is a monologue, the protagonist is silenced: he uses an aggressive tone and shows the typical American attitude of overhanging others. |
| Possible conclusion:Erica’s father's idea of Pakistan is not right: it reflects Eastern culture and education and it is influenced by the media: the quotation presents a clash between different cultures. |
|  Typical American tone. | Tono tipicamente americano. | * The original language seems to favour the use of a nominal style.

  |
| Reason for choice: the quotation concerns Changez double identity and the theme of stereotypes. |
| Analysis:The word “typical” presupposes Changez’s knowledge of the “American tone” he is talking about.  |
| Possible conclusion:Just reading the quotation the reader can immediately understand that the protagonist lives in America. |

CHAPTER 5

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| QuotationsOriginal version | Quotations*Italian translation* | Comparative analysis |
| They are successful urban dwellers, like you and I, swift enough to escape detection and canny enough to hunt among a crowd. | Sono cittadini di successo, come me e lei, abbastanza svelti da non lasciarsi sorprendere e abbastanza guardinghi da andare a caccia in mezzo alla folla. | * The difference between the two versions mainly affects syntax: Italian syntax sounds more elaborate and complex.
* The original language seems to favour the use of a nominal style in part of the quotation.
* It does not seem there are many different style.
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation provides an example of a similarity between the two characters. |
| Analysis:What connects the two characters is linguistically expressed by “they are both swift enough to escape detection” and “cunny enough to hunt ….”The impression is that they are both intelligent people able to avoid problems and difficult situations.The use of an anaphoric structure reinforces the positive qualities of the two characters. |
| Possible conclusion:The total effect is that they both seem to live in a situation of unease.The similarity the protagonist refers may be done with the purpose of creating a certain level of informality and a closer relationship.They have both experienced what living in a different country and culture may mean: the sense of cultural shock, the difficulty to face the Other. |
| I was, in my own eyes, a veritable James Bond. | Mi vedevo allora come un vero e proprio James Bond. | * The Italian version adopts the verb “vedere”. There is an appellation to the sense of sight. Moreover it conveys the idea of a personal point f view, something not certain that the speaker hypothesizes.
* The original version opens with the verb “to be”: the use of a different verb makes the quotation take a diverse meaning: indeed it sounds like an affirmation, something absolutely certain. Only the aside “on my own eyes” gives the idea of a more personal vision as if Changez would go behind.
 |
| Reason for choice: the quotation recalls the theme of multiple identities. |
| Analysis:Just looking at the quotation the intelligent reader can easily understand Changez’s inner conflict: he uses to play the role of a different persona, in this case James Bond. This makes the reader feel as if only his outer shell, but not his actual identity could be identified. |
| Possible conclusion:Both the quotation make the reader think Changez is proud of his condition and not completely aware of his inner conflict.Changez’s playing different roles may make the reader think that the identity that you infer somebody from the person you see, does not necessary have to be congruent with the identity of the person as such. In conclusion the narrator’s aim is to convey that identity cannot be deduced from outer identification.  |
| I looked at him – at his fair and light eyes and, most of all, his oblivious immersion in the minutiae of our work – and thought, you are so foreign. I felt that moment much closer to the Filipino driver than to him; I felt I was play-acting when in reality I ought to be making my way home, like the people on the street outside. | Lo guardai, i capelli biondi e gli occhi chiari, e soprattutto la sua assoluta dedizione alle minuzie del nostro lavoro, e pensai: come sei straniero. In quel momento mi sentivo molto più vicino al conducente filippino che a lui; mi sentivo come uno che recita una parte, quando in realtà avrei dovuto vivere la mia vita a casa mia, come la gente per strada là fuori. | * The verb “to look at” used on the original version means direct one’s attention on something specific that causes on the person interest.
* The Italian verb “guardare” has a more generic connotation: it not implies attention.
* The two versions uses to different words to empathize the word Changez’s co-worker foreignness: “so” and “come”. Each of them has a quantitative connotiation.
 |
| Reason for choice: the quotation evokes the themes of:* Differences between cultures;
* superiority and inferiority.
 |
| Analysis:The quotation is rich of visual vocabulary: it remind to the theme of appearance.during Changez’s encounter with the Filipino cab driver he looks at the protagonist as if he too, just as his co-workers, would represent western meritocracy. This in turn initiates Changez’ torn between his Pakistani identity and American *persona*. |
| Possible conclusion:The two versions allude to the concepts of appearance and substance:Indeed the narrator wants to focus on the theme of inferring a specific identity on the basis of outer identification. The English version conveys better Changez’s inner conflict that the Italian one.  |
| I was not at war with America. Far from it: I was the product of an American university; I was earning a lucrative American salary; I was infatuated with an American woman. | Io non ero in guerra con gli Stati Uniti. Anzi, ero il prodotto di un’università americana; stavo guadagnando un lucroso salario americano; ero infatuato di una donna americana. | * The original version uses the word “America” while the Italian version adopts the word “Stati Uniti”. America is something bigger than USA: it is a continent. But it is interesting to notice how in the Italian culture United States are the most representatives of the continent.
* The expression “far from it” empathizes the separation between the first and the second sentence. The Italian version uses instead the word “anzi” that suggest a contraposition between the two sentences.

Another difference is the nominal style adopted by the original version.  |
| Reason for choice: the quotation recalls the theme of multiples identities, in this case the American one. |
| Analysis:The quotation opens with Changez who is affirm he is not in war with America. The reader may start to wonder why the protagonist should be in war with the continent, or what it represents.Later he makes a list of his connections with America: Princeton University, his job as a Underwood Samson Company employee and his love story with an American girl.Here, it is interesting to notice the repetition of the word “America” that suggest to the reader how America is important to him. |
| Possible conclusion:Both the quotations makes Changez’s American identity come to surface. But the two quotations produce a different effect: the original version seems to be more personal because of the use of nominal style. |
| 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 first difference between the original version and the Italian one is the verbal tense used: the English version used the past simple, the translated version uses the imperfect.
* Another important difference is the verb “to bring”: it conveys the idea of America accompanied in her fall. The translated version uses the verb “mettere” that sounds more detached.
* The English term “so visibly” is not translated properly: indeed the Italian translation used is “modo tanto smaccato”.
 |
| Reason for choice: theme of multiple identities. |
| Analysis:The quotation represent the moment of the attack to the Twin Towers. It is hence the symbolic destruction of America meritocracy.the events represent the trigger for Changez t become more conscious of his personal identity and find an end to his identity crisis.  |
| Possible conclusion:The English version is more solemn than the Italian one: the word “smaccato” conveys humiliation. In more generally words: the Italian version gives the idea of a mockery and of the protagonist’s satisfaction. |

CHAPTER 6

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quotations****Original version** | **Quotations*****Italian translation*** | **Comparative analysis** |
| You hesitate, sir; I did not mean to put you on the spot. If you are not ready to reveal your *purpose* in travelling here – your demeanor all but precludes the possibility that you are a tourist wandering aimlessly through this part of the world – then I will not insist. | Lei esita, signore, non intendevo metterla alle strette. Se non si sente ancora pronto a rivelare il *proposito* che l’ha condotta qui… il suo contegno mi porta a escludere l’eventualità che lei sia un turista che vaga senza scopo per questa parte del mondo, non insisterò. | * In the Italian version there is the use of the formal form
* The expression “put someone on the spot” is different from “mettere alle strette”: in the original version it seems more direct
* In Italian version “che l’ha condotta qui” is different from “in travelling here”
* The word “possibility” seems more specific than the italian word “eventualità”
 |
| **Reason for choice:** The quotation reveals Changez’s curiosity about the objective of the American traveller. |
| **Analysis:**Changez uses his ability to read between the lines to try to discover what is the aim of the American interlocutor. Changez pretends to be naïve, saying that the American cannot be just a simple tourist. Indeed he seems to already know who the American is. Changez remains polite.  |
| **Possible conclusion:**The original version arouses the reader’s curiosity: it gives many different possibilities. Indeed the Italian version seems to suggest that the American interlocutor has a secret objective to his trip to Lahore in Pakistan. |
| They all seemed to proclaim: We are America- not New York, which, in my opinion, means something quite different- the mightiest civilization the world has ever known; you have slighted us; beware our wrath. | Tutte sembrano proclamare: noi siamo l’America -non New York, che a mio parere significa qualcosa di molto diverso-, la città più potente che il mondo abbia mai conosciuto, ci avete provocato, adesso vedrete scatenarsi la nostra ira. | * The expression “molto diverso” in the Italian versioni is less extreme than “quite different” (completely/ totaly)
* The expression “mightiest civilization” is very different from “la città più potente”: “might “ means physical as well that enomic power
* The verb “to slight” is different from “provocare”: the forma means more than provoke, not show respect and insult
* In the Italian version there is not the word “beware”
 |
| **Reason for choice:** The quotation discusses on of the main themes of the novel: difference between New York and America. |
| **Analysis:**The novelist puts into focus the differences between New York as a cosmopolitan city and America as the most powerful civilization in the whole world. The quotation is used as a symbol of America’s arrogance.  |
| **Possible conclusion**:The quotation in the original version is more aggressive: the use of the words “mightiest” and “wrath” is almost biblical. On the other hand, in the Italian version the tone seems less religious and less violent. |
|  I felt in the strength of her ongoing attachment to Chris the presence of a rival […] with whom I feared I could never compete | Nella forza del suo attaccamento a Chris percepivo la presenza di un rivale […] con cui temevo di non poter competere | * In the Italian version there is no equivalent of the word ongoing
* The verb ”to feel”is more intimate and connected with sentiments that the Italian verb “percepire”
* In the Italian version there is not the adverb “never”
 |
| **Reason for choice:** The quotation underlines on of the main themes: competition.  |
| **Analysis:**While Changez feels the insuperable distance between him and Chris in Erica’s affections, Pakistan seems to be crushed by America’s power. But also demonstrates Pakistan’s inferiority complex. Indeed Changez feels a rival of Chris, even though Chris is dead.  |
| **Possible conclusion**:The original version works more on the level of emotions, indeed it gives a more tragic vision of the situation. In the Italian version the effect is less poignant. |
| Looking back now, I see there was a certain symmetry to the situation: I felt I was entering in New York in the very same social class that my family was falling out of in Lahore. | Ripensandoci col senno di poi, colgo in quella situazione una certa simmetria: sentivo che stavo entrando a far parte a New York di quella stessa classe sociale di cui la mia famiglia era stata esclusa a Lahore. | * The expression “looking back now” is translated with “ripensandoci col senno di poi”: they are quite different, but they all most mean the same. The original version is less explicit.
* In the Italian version there is not the use of the word “to be” in the past
* The expression “falling out ” is very different from “era stata esclusa”
 |
| **Reason for choice:** The quotation discusses the theme of social class. |
| **Analysis:**The novelist using the word “symmetry”, which belongs to the semantic field of geometry, compares his social position in New York and his family in Lahore. Indeed his progress is mirrored by his family’s social decline in Pakistan. |
| **Possible conclusion:**The orginal version gives the idea that Changez’s family is in decline, however in the Italian version it seems that they have always been of an inferior class. |
| “I wished to serve as her anchor in these moments, without being so vulgar as to make known to her that this was a role I felt she needed someone to play” | “In quei momenti avrei voluto servirle da ancora, avendo l’accortezza di non farle capire che sapevo quanto ne avesse bisogno.” | * The expression “not to be so vulgar” is translated as “avere l’accortezza” are different: in the original version the politeness of Changez is more determined.
* The expression “this was a role I felt she needed someone to play” is more personal than than Italian “quanto ne avesse bisogno”.
 |
| **Reason for choice:** The quotation presents Changez’s way of approaching in his love relationhip. |
| **Analysis:**Changez understand that Erica needs someone as an anchor, someone who can help her. But he does not want to make her see this because it could make her feel weak. The quotation is fundamental to understand Chagez’s view of love. |
| **Possible conclusion**:In the original version Changez wants to be a gentleman, being polite and demonstrating respect. Indeed in the Italian version Erica’s need seems less oppressing, looking just as a preference. |

CHAPTER 7

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| QuotationsOriginal version | Quotations*Italian translation* | Comparative analysis |
| I wonder now, sir, whether I believed at all in the firmness of the foundations of the new life I was attempting to construct for myself in New York. Certainly I *wanted* to believe; at least I wanted not to disbelieve with such a intensity that I prevented myself as much as was possible from making to obvious connection between the crumbling of the world around me and the impeding destruction of my personal American dream. | Adesso mi domando, signore, se credessi alla solidità dei fondamenti della nuova vita che stavo cercando di costruirmi a New York. Di sicuro volevo crederci; o quantomeno non volevo non crederci, con una tale intensità da impedirmi di fare l’ovvia connessione tra il frantumarsi del mondo intorno a me e l’incombente distruzione del mio personale sogno americano. | * "I wonder" recalls to a dream, in this case an illusion. The Italian "mi domando" does not give the same impression
* the expression "for myself " does not compare in the Italian version
* "as much as was possible" does not compare in the Italian version: it underlines Changez's effort
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation discusses a very important theme: the failure of the American dream. |
| Analysis: Changez asks himself if his American dream has always been an illusion: possibly it never existed at all. Indeed he has radically changed his opinion: he does not believe at the firmness of the foundations of the life in new York. He recognizes a similarity between the problems of the world around him(war in Pakistan) and the destruction of his American dream. |
| Possible conclusion: In the Italian version in terms of interior effort the effect is less impressive, maybe because a few phrases are omitted. In addition the original conveys a stronger feeling of bewilderment. |
| And we did these things when your country was still a collection of thirteen small colonies, gnawing away at the edge of a continent. | E abbiamo fatto queste cose quando il vostro paese era ancora un’accozzaglia di tredici piccole colonie aggrappate sull’orlo di un continente. | * the italian word "accozzaglia" seems more disregardful
* "gnawing away" is very different from "aggrappate": the original version gives an idea of violence
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation recalls to the difficulties of development of Pakistan. |
| Analysis: The novelist discusses the problem of how can be possible that Pakistan which was a quite a modern civilization while America was still a collection of small colonies, is now so undeveloped. Indeed America has developed very fast, while Pakistan seem stuck with no development.  |
| Possible conclusion: The original version on one side seems more moderate but on the other with the verb "gnawing" it conveys a cruel image. On a similar way the Italian version is dramatic on one side and less violent on the other one. |
| The FBI was raiding mosques, shops, and even people’s house; Muslims men were disappearing. | Le incursioni dell’FBI nelle moschee, nei negozi, addirittura nelle case private; uomini mussulmani che sparivano. | * In the Italian version there is the nominative form: indeed there is not the verb "was raiding"
* "people's house" underlines how near to commune people this raiding, instead of "case private"
 |
| Reason for choice: The theme of the quotation is stereotypes. |
| Analysis: The speaking voice discusses the FBI reaction after the Twin Towers attack: Muslim became the new enemy. As a consequence FBI, which in this case represents America, raided mosques, shops and even people's house. The novelist wanted to underline how even FBI worked with stereotypes, indeed religion was a right to find guilty someone. |
| Possible conclusion: The original version underlines how the raids were a symbol to demonstrate how America as a very powerful nation was fighting against terrible terrorists. The Italian version in a first impression seems more ambiguous. |
| Power comes from becoming change. | Ma il potere deriva dal diventare cambiamento. | * In the Italian version there the "ma" which does not used in the original version
* the rest of the quotation corresponds with the original version
 |
| Reason for choice: The theme of the quotation is "change". |
| Analysis: The quotation presents one of the main points of the novel, indeed the power of the protagonist is his facility to change and modify his ideas. The protagonist is the personification of change: Changez himself is the symbol of transformation. Indeed his name sounds like change.  |
| Possible conclusion: The original version without the use of the word "but" it seems to the reader that the quotation is more direct. |

CHAPTER 8

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| QuotationsOriginal version | Quotations*Italian translation* | Comparative analysis |
| I had always thought of America as a nation that looked forward; for the first time I was struck by its determination to look back. | Avevo sempre pensato agli Stati Uniti come una nazione che guarda avanti; per la prima volta fui colpito dalla sua determinazione di guardare *indietro*. | * " America" is translated with "Stati Uniti"
* In the original version there is the use of the past simple "that looked", on the opposite in the Italian version it is used the present: in the forma it seems something gone
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation refers to the need of a cause. |
| Analysis: The protagonist is shocked by America's need to look back and find a cause to its actions. To describe America's way of acting the novelist used a personification: "A nation that looked forward", "its determination to look back".  |
| Possible conclusion: In the original version the protagonist on one hand seems more shocked and on the other it underlines America's drastic point of view. |
| She was merely bringing to an end my intrusion on a conversation Erica was having with Chris – a conversation occurring on some plane that I could not reach or even properly see. | Stava solo ponendo termine alla mia intrusione in una conversazione tra Erica e Chris, una conversazione che si teneva su un piano a cui io non avevo accesso e che nemmeno riuscivo a capire. | * "merely" os translated with "solo": in the Itlain version it could be also referred to Changez loneliness
* "Erica was having with Chris" is different from "tra Erica e Chris": in the original version it underlines that Chris is dead
* "I could not reach" conveys the idea of something divine, differently from "non avevo accesso"
* "see" is translated with "capire"
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation recalls to Changez's love relationship. |
| Analysis: In the quotation Chengez discusses his difficulty approaching to Erica's relationship. Indeed even if her ex-boyfriend is dead, their love is going on. It is on a level that seems divine, indeed Changez is not able to reach it or even to see it. Changez is just a mortal in front of Chris, who seems a divine creature.  |
| Possible conclusion: The original version conveys a very different impression than the Italian one. Indeed the perception of the divine level is almost omitted in the Italian version. |
| At Underwood Samson I could not entirely escape the growing importance of *tribe.* | Alla Underwood Samson non potevo sfuggire del tutto alla crescente importanza della *tribù.* | * "escape" gives a more energic view than its translation "sfuggire"
* The rest of the quotation is very similar to the Italian one
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation introduces the theme of "tribe". |
| Analysis: The quotation presents a sort of paradox: in a modern capitalist multinational as Underwood Samson, an archaic model like "tribe" is fundamental. Changez is unable to "escape" from this model because it is the basis of the company.  |
| Possible conclusion: Changez, going to America, abandons Pakistan for a capitalist nation. It is almost absurd that Underwood Samson uses a model ("tribe") which recalls to Pakistan itself. Changez feels powerless in front of the incoming spirit of the company. |
| Fucking Arab. | Arabo del cazzo. | * The Italian and the original version uses different vulgar expression, but they both convey a lot of disgust
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation is linked to the theme of stereotypes. |
| Analysis: The expression is extremely vulgar: it is a common insult toward an Arab person. Indeed it is linked to the stereotype of Arab's guilty in front of fundamentalist's terrorists. The stereotype grew after the twin tower attack. America needed someone to fight to stop fear: every Arab could be a terrorist. |
| Possible conclusion: The quotation underlines how fear creates stereotypes, indeed Changez is just guilty because he is Arab. The expression used conveys disdain, embodied by the very vulgar phrase. |
| You’re preoccupied. Something’s eating at you. If I had to guess, I’d say it’s your Pakistani side. | Sei turbato. C’è qualcosa che ti logora. Se dovessi indovinare, direi che è il tuo lato Pakistano | * The word "preoccupied" conveys the idea of worry. On the opposite in Italian "turbato" seems more referred to the mood of the person
* The phrase "Something's eating you" gives a more dramatic idea than "qualcosa che ti logora"
 |
| Reason for choice: The theme of the quotation is the clash between cultures. |
| Analysis: In the quotation Changez seems to be a person with two different personalities. Indeed when he is preoccupied, the interlocutor says it is his "Pakistani side". Indeed Changez Pakistani side is sad and preoccupied, because war was in the offing. The expression "something's eating at you" gives the idea of Changez's struggle. |
| Possible conclusion: In the original version the problem seems to come from the outside, indeed it is stress linked to the incoming war. On the other hand in the Italian version the cause of worry seems more interior in Changez: the problem seems connected to feelings. |

CHAPTER 9

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| QuotationsOriginal version | Quotations*Italian translation* | Comparative analysis |
| I wondered how I could ever have been so ungenerous – and so blind – to have thought otherwise, and I was disturbed by what this implied about myself: that I was a man lacking in substance and hence easily influenced by even a short sojourn in the company of others. | Mi domandai come potevo essere stato tanto ingeneroso, e tanto cieco, da aver pensato altrimenti, ed ero turbato da quello che ciò sottintendeva: che ero un uomo così inconsistente da lasciarmi influenzare da un breve soggiorno all’estero. | * "I wondered" recalls to a dream, in this case an illusion. The Italian "mi domandai" does not give the same impression
* The adjective "disturbed" gives a different sensation than "turbato"
* "about myself" does not compare in Italian: it neglects a personal point of view
* In the original version important is the phrase "in the company of others", which in Italian is overlooked: there is no influence of people just of places
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation is important because it conveys Changez's inconstancy of identity. |
| Analysis: Changez is disturbed by a consideration: he is easily influenced by others and other places. Indeed just living for a short period of life in America, made him think that Pakistan is nation without culture and history. He feels ungenerous because he forgot what Pakistan was able to give to him. The word "blind" recalls to the semantic field of sight.  |
| Possible conclusion: In the original version the importance as well of the place and of the people is on the same level, on the other side in Italian the importance of the group around you is omitted. In addition the original version conveys a more dramatic point of view. |
| I had changed. | Non compare nella versione italiana | * Interesting is to notice how in the Italian version the expression "I had chamged" does not even compare
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation is important because it recalls the theme of "change". |
| Analysis: The expression " I had changed" implies the meaning of the whole novel. Indeed the name of the protagonist "Changez" sounds like the word "change". In this particular case Changez changed from a Pakistani to an American. As a consequence he changed his point of view, becoming a foreigner in his own homeland. |
| Possible conclusion: The quotation is an example of how different is to read a novel in the original version or in a translated version. In addition this a fundamental concept of the novel, which is completely omitted changing the meaning of the whole paragraph. |
| What is natural in one place can seem unnatural in another. | Quello che è naturale in un luogo può apparirci innaturale in un altro. | * The expression "can seem" is translated in the Italian version with "può apparirci": the Italian version should be "può sembrare"
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation implies the theme of different cultures. |
| Analysis: Many things can be seen true, normal or natural in one place and in an other can be the opposite. Indeed many opinions are created by culture, traditions, different places of living. As well what seem unnatural in one place can be natural in another place.  |
| Possible conclusion: In conclusion the quotation wants to underline how two very different cultures can create dramatic cultural shocks. And the question the reader asks himself is: what makes something natural or annatural?  |
| For despite my mother’s request, and my knowledge of the difficulties it could well present me at immigration , I had not shaved my two-week-old beard. It was perhaps a form of protest on my part, a symbol of my identity, or perhaps I sought to remind myself of the reality I had just left behind. | Nonostante la raccomandazione di mia madre, e la mia consapevolezza delle difficoltà che avrebbe comportato, non mi ero rasato la barba di due settimane. Forse era una forma di protesta, un simbolo della mia identità, o forse cercavo di mantenere vivo il ricordo della realtà che mi ero lasciato alle spalle. | * "request" is more simple than "raccomandazione": the forma is something asked, but the Italian version seems more a suggestion
* the expression "it could well present me at immigration" describes the specific situation in aeroport, but in Italian is more general
* The verb "remind" is translated with "mantenere vivo il ricordo": The Italian version has more meaning
 |
| Reason for choice: The themes of the quotation are stereotypes and indentity. |
| Analysis: The word “beard” the problem of inferring a specific identity on the basis of outer identification. Indeed the “beard” is usually associated to an Islamic fundamentalist. Changez tries to fight his feeling guilty with the symbol of the beard: indeed he feels more connected to Pakistan in this way. |
| Possible conclusion: In this case the original version is more specific with particular situations (for example the "immigration"), on the other hand the Italian version draws a more generic view of the problems. |

CHAPTER 10

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| QuotationsOriginal version | Quotations*Italian translation* | Comparative analysis |
| I found myself unable to concentrate on our work. | Non riuscivo a concentrarmi sul lavoro. | The expression “I found myself unable to concentrate” is different from “”non riuscivo a concentrarmi”: the original version implies a study of the personal situation* In the original version “on our work” gives an idea of duty of the work
 |
| Reason for choice: : The quotation is referred to the psychology of the protagonist. |
| Analysis: : The protagonist feels as if he is unable to concentrate. On one side he seems to feels guilty because he is not able to do a good job, but on the other he seems to concentrate on being unable to concentrate. Indeed his mind is on his homeland situation. |
| Possible conclusion: The quotation in Italian and English is very different: the original version gives the idea of a man looking his interiority from the outside. As well it conveys the idea of how important it is with the word “our”. |
| There really could be no doubt: I was a modern-day janissary. | Non c’erano dubbi: ero un moderno giannizzero. | * The original expression “there really could be not doubt” gives a more certain possibility
* “Modern-day” gives a more alive impression than its translation “moderno”
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation is about the janissaries. |
| Analysis: The Janissaries were Christian boys who were captured by the Ottomans. The objective was to made them become soldiers of the muslim army. They had to learn Turkish and Islam's costumes. When they became eighteen years old they had to go back to their homeland and destroy their families and homes. Changez is describes as a modern day janissary: it is a metaphor. |
| Possible conclusion: The original gives an information which is obviously true. Indeed I the Italian version there is not the same decision. The protagonist is compared to a figure of the past. |
| My days of focusing on fundamentals were done. | I miei giorni di concentrazione sui fondamenti erano finiti. | * The verb “to focuse” is translated in the Italian version with the nominative form "concetrazione": the original version gives more the idea of action
* "were done" is "erano finiti": they both give a sense of ending
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation is referred to one of the main themes of the novel: importance of fundamentals. |
| Analysis: The quotation conveys the idea of the end of something, indeed Changez finishes to believe in the mentality of “focusing on fundamentals”. It is referred to the capitalist model of working, but also it is referred to religious fundamentalism. |
| Possible conclusion: In the original version the use of a verb instead of a noun gives the idea of a personal activity to focuse. Changez will not focuse anymore on fundamentals, because this is his own choice.  |
| My own identity was so fragile. | La mia identità era così fragile. | * In Italian the word "own" is not used: it omits a feeling of inner being
* The rest of the quotation is similar
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation is important because it recalls the theme of the crisis of identity. |
| Analysis: The quotation underlines the difficulty of adapting to a different culture, because it destroys all previous certainties. Indeed the protagonist feels lost after he rejected his original culture to adopt the new American culture. Afterwards all his new way of observing, he starts to doubt what he has become. This makes his identity so fragile. |
| Possible conclusion: The original version emphasizes the profound discomfort that the protagonist feels. He is torn between the satisfaction he feels in becoming a success in the capitalist west and the alienation experienced in the reaction of the west to the attack on the Twin Towers. |

CHAPTER 11

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| QuotationsOriginal version | Quotations*Italian translation* | Comparative analysis |
| I reflected that I had always resented the manner in which America conducted itself in the world; your country’s constant interference in the affairs of others was insufferable. | Riflettevo su quanto mi avesse sempre urtato il modo in cui gli Stati Uniti si comportano nel mondo; la continua intromissione del Vostro paese negli affari degli altri è insopportabile. | * The original version uses the word “America” while the Italian version adopts the word “Stati Uniti”. America is something bigger than USA: it is a continent. But it is interesting to notice how in the Italian culture United States are the most representatives of the continent.
* The English version uses the past simple, differently from the Italian one.
* The verb “to conduct” gives the idea of a personal choice of acting, with no one imposing to the agent his thought.
 |
| Reason for choice: Changez explains his position in front of America |
| Analysis:Changez is definitely turns on his Pakistani self and scolds America for her arrogance. The point of view that comes to surface is not only Changez’s one, but also the one of everyone out America. The contrast appears clear in the quotation.  |
| Possible conclusion:In the two quotations appears clear Changez’s dissociation from the U.S.A.. The English version seems to be more personal because of the use of nominal style: it is a direct speech between Changez and America. |
| Finance was a primary means by which the American empire exercised its power. | La finanza è il principale strumento attraverso cui l’impero Americano esercita il proprio potere. | * The most important difference between the two versions is the use of verbal tenses: the original version uses the past simple, while the Italian one uses the present simple.
* There are not significant differences of syntax between the two quotations.
 |
| Reason for choice: the quotation describes the basis of the America society. |
| Analysis:Changez analyses how America is structured: it bases itself of finance. Capitalism labour and meritocracy are the fundamentals of America.It is interesting to notice that the protagonist still speaks about America as an “empire” using the past. |
| Possible conclusion:The English version gives the idea of a situation of the past, while in the Italian version it seems to last in the present.  |
| Erica’s gone. | Erica se n’è andata. | * The syntax does not present different differences.
* The pronoun reflective “se” sound like a more personal choice, a spontaneous action.
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotations provides information about an important character of the novel: Erica. |
| Analysis:The short sentence has great importance because provides information of Erica’s presumed death.Changez has previously described her as a part of him: now that she’s gone he lost a piece of himself.The quotation can also represent a symbolically the death of the American country through its personification with Erica. The America seems dead because of the facts of 09/11: America is not the mightiest civilization. |
| You wish to pay half? Absolutely not; besides, here we pay all or we pay none. You have reminded me of how alien I found the concept of acquaintances splitting a bill when I first arrived in your country. | Vuole fare a metà? Assolutamente no; e poi da noi si paga tutto o non si paga niente. Mi ha fatto ricordare quanto trovavo strano, appena arrivato nel vostro paese, che si dividesse il conto a metà. | * The term “we pay” in the original version is interpreted as “we Pakistani”, to explain that it concerns Pakistani habits and not Pakistani being. In the Italian version this particular it is not revealed to the reader.
* The word “aliens” used by Changez alludes to his feel a so big difference between Americans and himself. The Italian word “strano” conveys the idea of something unusual.
 |
| Reason for choice: the quotation reports differences between cultures. |
| Analysis:The quotation highlights difference of habits between Pakistani culture and the American one.Here, Changez focuses on the Pakistani habit of paying all the check: he reminds his shock when he first came from Pakistan to America. Now he is again disconcerted for the American’s propose to pay half: Changez is turned to Pakistani mind, taking distance from American culture. |
| Possible conclusion:the original version conveys a more stronger emotion in the reader when Changez expresses his disappointment in front of his American interlocutor’s habits, by the use of more impressive words such as “alien”. |

CHAPTER 12

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| QuotationsOriginal version | Quotations*Italian translation* | Comparative analysis |
| I can assure you that I am a believer in nonviolence; the spilling of blood is abhorrent to me, save in self-defense | Posso assicurarle che sono un seguace della nonviolenza, e aborro lo spargimento di sangue, se non per autodifesa. | * The original version used the word "believer" to intend a supported, someone who accepts something, in Italian is translated with "seguace". In the second phrases the order of the words is different but the meaning is the same. The word "save" translated in the Italian version with "se non" is a preposition and means except, besides.
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation presents Changez way of thinking about violence.  |
| Analysis: The sentence is told by Chanegz when he is speaking with his un-named interlocutor. He proclaimed himself a "believer in nonviolence" to imply that he does not represent those terrorist who attacked the America in 9/11.  |
| Possible conclusion:The two languages used both similar nouns and adjective to describe the  concept, the presence of the subject in the English form underlines that the thought are from the speaker.  |
| Not, of course, that I actually believe I am having a relationship, in the normal sense of that term, with Erica at this moment, or that she will one day appear, smiling and bent against the weight of her backpack, to surprise me on my doorstep. | Non che in quel momento credessi davvero di avere una relazione, nel normale senso del termine, con Erica, o che sperassi di vederla comparire sulla soglia di casa mia, sorridente e china sotto il peso dello zaino, per farmi una sorpresa. | * The main difference between the two versions in the verbal tense used: the English version uses the present simple, while the Italian version uses the “congiuntivo”.
* “This moment” – “quel momento” the two adjectives have the function of make Erica close or distant from Changez.
* The future tense in the English version sounds like a promess.
 |
| Reason for choice: Changez tells about Erica’s supposed death |
| Analysis:Changez remenbers Erica. The quotation conveys the protagonist’s nostalgia. By the using of the present simple tense Erica seems to be still alive. Changez speech sounds like a mental reflection, as he would be alone. In addiction Changez does not feel himself firm in his position: indeed he left the speech open. |
| Possible conclusion:The english version uses the simple present : this makes Erica part of Chagenz present and a constant presence in his mind. On the other hand the italian version situates Erica in the past: the translated version underlines the passing over of “Erica phase”.  |
| I had returned to Pakistan, but my inhabitation of your country had not entirely ceased. I remained emotionally entwined with Erica, and I brought something of her with me to Lahore-or perhaps it would be more accurate to say that I lost something of myself to her that I was unable to relocate in the city of my birth. | Ero tornado in Pakistan, ma non avevo del tutto cessato di abitare il vostro paese. Restavo emotivamente legato a Erica, e avevo portato qualcosa di lei con me a Lahore, o forse sarebbe più esatto dire che avevo lasciato con lei qualcosa di me che non riuscivo a ritrovare nella mia città natale. | * The original version adopts the nominal style, while the Italian one suddenly omits the subject.
* Moreover, the word “entwined” means also “interlaced”, so this expression comes to the reader’s mind as a meaning of a very strong emotionally bond.
 |
| Reason for choice: Changez’s identity |
| Analysis:Changez suffers for the loss of Erica: he feels the same nostalgia for America, impersonated by Erica. Despite some negative aspects that had characterized his American stay and the relationship with Erica, Changez takes with him a part of them. Bringing it with he in Pakistan he is finally able to find out himself. |
| Possible conclusion:Both the quotations convey the sense of nostalgia felt by the protagonist. |
| You should not imagine that we Pakistanis are all potential terrorists, just as we should not imagine that you Americans are all uncover assassins. | Non deve pensare che noi pakistani siamo tutti potenziali terroristi, così come noi non dobbiamo immaginare che voi americani siate tutti assassini sotto copertura. | * The two versions adopt a different register: the English “you” seems more confidential, while the Italian version uses the formal register :“lei”;
* The English version uses “should”: Changez gives an advice; the Italian version with the verb “dovere” it is an imposition.
 |
| Reason for choice: The quotation presents the themes of different cultures meeting and the problem of stereotypes.  |
| Analysis:Changez deals with the theme of stereotypes: he contests that Pakistanis are usually associated to terrorists. Once again the problem of inferring a specific identity on the basis of outer appearance comes to surface. The protagonist uses the modal “should ”: he gives an advice to his interlocutor. |
| Possible conclusion:The narrator’s aim is to deals with that identity cannot be deduced from outer appearance.  |