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Agli amici, quelli veri...

Abstract

Translation refers to the process of transferring or mediating written texts of different lengths from one human language to another.

Since language is not an isolated phenomenon but dynamic, due to the interactions that happen between the participants, in order to have a successful translation it is necessary to consider both the formal linguistic features and the extralinguistic context, based on a specific culture. It is fundamental to remember that there is not a single way to translate texts, but purposes and recipients must be examined.

Moreover, the quality of a translation, which is another primary requirement, depends on three elements: the text type, with a main function that requires distinct analyses; the socio-cultural context, which can be based on the client, on the market demand or on the translator purposes; and finally, the translation standards required. These factors are primary to create a clear, efficient and specific translation so that the success and suitability of the final work will be determined according to its task and the receiver's need. At last, translators should be well-prepared and have a working knowledge of the subject to be translated, which will be essential to avoid misconceptions and disinformation.

Table of contents

Introduction.....	5
Chapter 1 Sustainability translators and their challenges	
1.1 Sustainability translators.....	7
1.2 Challenges and strategies.....	9
1.2.1 Equivalence.....	9
1.2.2 Specialised translation and terminology.....	11
Chapter 2 Challenges and tools	
2.1 Editing and revising.....	15
2.1.1 The process of editing in translation.....	15
2.1.2 The revision task.....	17
2.1.3 The revision guidelines.....	18
2.1.4 The correction procedure.....	21
2.2 The use of corpora.....	22
2.2.1 Corpora for translation fines: types and employments.....	23
Chapter 3 Articles	
Noble Rot.....	27
Level Down.....	31
Willing the End.....	36
Days of Rage.....	41
Chapter 4 Analysis	
4.1 Terminology and special languages.....	49
4.2 Non-equivalence.....	54
4.2.1 Culture-specific concepts.....	54
4.2.2 Lack of lexicalization.....	56
4.2.3 Complex SL words.....	58
4.3 Revision.....	60
4.3.1 Accuracy and completeness.....	60
4.3.2 Smoothness.....	62
4.3.3 Sub-language.....	63
Conclusion.....	65
References.....	67

Introduction

This dissertation focuses on a topic that is very close to my heart, sustainability, and I my aim is to discuss it through translation, another activity that interests me just as much. My purpose is to combine these two interests of mine to disseminate information and spread awareness of all the changes that are happening around us, but which we sometimes forget about. Furthermore, by combining these two components, I will explain how an effective translation of certain delicate and important issues can take place, following precise techniques and knowledge that every translator must possess.

The analysis of my dissertation develops out of the topics covered in some popular articles by the British journalist and environmentalist George Monbiot, in which he discusses subjects such as the following: the conditions of some species of animals at risk of extinction and increasingly threatened by human activity; the fact that those who hold power in governments are not acting concretely to change our harmful impact on the planet; and also how progressive and constant change is the only solution.

For the drafting and analysis of the paper, I made use of specific manuals on translation techniques and of a corpus of texts originally written in Italian collected by me, in order to have a useful reference for the translation of specific terms.

The first two chapters discuss some of the main skills and techniques that a translator must be able to master in order to carry out an thorough job. The first chapter in particular deals with the importance of sustainability education and the theoretical concepts of equivalence and terminology. In the second chapter, further theoretical concepts are introduced regarding the correct editing and revising of one's own translations, in order to avoid the various types of errors illustrated. The third chapter provides the translations of the articles, and finally in the fourth chapter I focus on the analysis of certain critical points of the translations by reconnecting to the theory.

Chapter 1

Sustainability translators and their challenges

Introduction

As this dissertation presents my translations of some articles on the topic of sustainability, in this first chapter I will explore how the process of translation can occur, showing the noteworthy techniques and factors to which a conscientious translator should pay attention.

1.1 Sustainability translators

Since the end of 20th century and especially in the last few decades, climate change has been a hot topic. We all know the nature of the difficulties that our planet is facing, and how it is responding to the damage caused by our hunger for power. Today's younger generations are paying for the consequences of past technological revolutions, and although many people are working hard to find solutions to past mistakes, many others appear not to care at all.

Sustainability is a broad concept born at the end of the last century, and it involves many aspects of life, which are generally summarized in the three fields of environment, society and economy. We can consider them as the pillars of a classical temple, which hold up its roof and are all essential, as reported by Rawlinson and Scoffham (2022). According to the previous authors, "Sustainability involves reconnecting to yourself, to other people and to the environment, at a range of scales from the local to the global" (2022:14), referring to the fact that the future of the world we live in depends on our actions, and that we should not attack the functional system that we have before us, but act to restore and preserve the harmony that once existed.

Fortunately, nowadays, consciousness about the conditions of the planet is spreading in society. People have realized that change is needed; we can see thus by the sustainable alternatives introduced into everyday life, such as using recyclable or biodegradable products avoiding plastic as much as possible, the promotion of electric or solar energy rather than fossil fuels and the reduction of meat consumption. As Rawlinson and

Scoffham state (2022:9), “ecological thinking takes a different stance. It represents the Earth is a dynamic, self-organizing system rather than a static entity and it stresses that people are part of nature and utterly depend upon it”.

Reporting what we know and driving people to improvement could be a decisive action that might, on a vast scale, make the difference. This is a practice everybody can carry out, even translators. It is very important to raise awareness from childhood about our duties and the responsibilities of human beings for a correct and sustainable living. The best way would be to include sustainability education in schools; as Rawlinson and Scoffham affirm: “education is often seen as having a powerful role in bringing about social change [...] it has the potential to nurture the best qualities in human nature and to create the conditions in which young people flourish” (2022:53-54).

Today in schools new teaching methods are emerging to involve students more and allow them to better understand broad and articulated topics, such as debate, reflective writing, role play and drama (Cremin et al, 2009; Rawlinson and Scoffham, 2022).

Translation may be another possible approach to sustainability education, to introduce during classes. As Rawlinson and Scoffham assert “Whatever form it may take, sustainability education needs to be underpinned by general concepts and principles” (2022:73); so students may gain information from translated texts, which contain clear and specific notions and facts, which can help them realize the conditions of the planet, including economic or social concepts, such as ‘development’, ‘growth’, ‘innovation’, ‘resources’, ‘equality’, ‘community’ and ‘health’.

This work is very important to me and to my studies, considering that my aim is matching my interests on the topic of sustainability with the linguistic skills I acquired during these years of university. I wanted to shed some light on this topic and spread information through my translations, seeing as how every approach to raise awareness and inform people is important. I hope that my contribution will be relevant to introduce some possible discussion topics and suggest investing more in environmental education, especially for future generations.

1.2 Challenges and strategies

In order to perform an adequate task, there are various challenges that a translator must face, but sustainability translators in particular must be accurate and precise, especially as regards equivalence, specialised translation and terminology. First of all, translators should not assume that they can rely on a single strategy for translating, but as Ulrych (1992:23) reports, there is no one single way to approach all kinds of texts, so applying the same strategies to every kind of text would be highly inappropriate.

As the majority of articles on environmental sustainability are of an informative or educational nature, translators should maintain a text-oriented version. As Ulrych (1992:52) states, “An informative text is text/TL centred: the translator’s task is to convey the message accurately and in a way that may be accessible to the intended TT¹ reader”.

1.2.1 Equivalence

Ensuring equivalence is the ability to transfer the specific content of a ST² to its TT understandably, or as Newmark states, it is the aim “to produce the same effect (or one as close as possible) on the readership of the translation as was obtained on the readership of the original” (1988:48) and so it is essential to translation. Even though there are conflicting opinions about the concept of equivalence itself, according to some textbooks it can be of different types: semantic, pragmatic, functional, grammatical and textual. Furthermore, translators should always consider the level of knowledge of the target audience they are translating for, in order to guarantee them a complete understanding of the topic debated and complete their work (Colina 2015:16).

The greatest difficulties for a translator arise when there is no direct correspondence of a term to be translated into the target language; in this case we talk about non-equivalence, which “at word level means that the target language has no direct equivalent for a word which occur in the source text” (Baker 2011:18). This may occur when dealing with specific semantic field, such as nature and the natural world, politics or medicine. Consequently, there are some specific non-equivalence problems, the most common of

¹ The Target Text (TT) is the translated text.

² The Source Text (ST) is the original text that is translated.

which concern culture-specific concepts, the lack of lexicalization of a term in the TL³, the complexity of a source-language word and the presence of loan words in the source text (Baker 2011).

With regard to culture-specific problems, they may occur when, during the translation process, translators run into a term in the ST that carries an unknown concept in the target culture: “The concept in question may be abstract or concrete; it may relay to a religious belief, a social custom or even a type of food” (Baker 2011:18). When facing a word of this kind, translators may be compelled to keep the ST term. Alternatively, the strategy used to overcome this problem is translating by using a more general word, a superordinate (Baker 2011:23).

As for the problem about the lack of lexicalization, it happens when “The source-language word may express a concept which is known in the target culture but simply not lexicalized, that is not ‘allocated’ a target language word to express it” (Baker 2011:18-19). Some examples can be the words ‘media’ and ‘shock’, which in a possible target-text may stay unvaried because of their high intelligibility, memorability and the incapability to create a new specific word. As an alternative to that, translators may also modify their work “by a more neutral/less expressive word” (Baker 2011:25).

Another very frequent issue translators must face concerns the complexity of source-language words. In this case, as Baker suggests “a single word which consists of a single morpheme can sometimes express a more complex set of meanings than a whole sentence” (2011:19). Generally, when facing this kind of problems, translators tend to reformulate the term “with a target-language item which does not have the same propositional meaning but is likely to have similar impact on the target reader, for instance by evoking a similar context in the target culture” (Baker 2011:29). Some examples of this can be the words ‘leadership’, ‘shushing’ and the verb ‘campaign’.

Another possible problem translators could face in a source-text is false friends, “words or expressions which have the same form in two or more languages but convey different meanings” (Baker 2011:22). The translation of these words will depend on the accuracy

³ The Target Language (TL) is the language into which a text is translated.

of the translators, their skills and knowledge of the language. If a given term is unknown, it is always good to check its origin and meaning to avoid a complete distortion of the meaning of the sentence. However, qualified translators are supposed to recognize and identify false friends easily, basing themselves on the logical meaning of the sentence itself. Some examples of false friends are the word 'sensitive' and 'pretend' which mean respectively 'sensibile' (and not 'sensitivo' as an Italian speaker might believe), and 'fingere' instead of 'pretendere'. As Baker affirms: "Once a word or expression is borrowed into a language, we cannot predict or control its development or the additional meanings it might or might not take on" (2011:22), so translators have the responsibility for their choices and adaptations.

1.2.2 Specialised translation and terminology

Another huge challenge sustainability translators must face is specialised translation and terminology.

Specialised translation according to Scarpa is "by now indispensable for the functioning of modern society, as an integral part of the international transfer of technical-scientific information" (2001:67), in fact it has been determined that many of the translations of the world are of a specialised type, so they have the aim of communicating specific information to a precise group of addressees. In addition, specialised translation can cover a wide range of possible topics and scopes such as the 'scientific speech', the 'professional speech' or 'workshop' and the 'sales speech', each of which has its own purpose, model of writing and recipient (Scarpa 2001:13). In order to carry out this activity, translators must use the so-called "special languages", which according to Scarpa "are languages used in scientific fields; not isolated realities as compared to normal communicative structures, but functional varieties of the basic code constituted by common language" (2001:16).

If we want to make a distinction between literary translation and specialised translation, we can say that "Differently from specialised translation, in literary translation the 'losses' from language to language are considered unavoidable, and translators deal with 'opened' texts, which allow many possible interpretations" (Scarpa 2001:69). So, if

compared to specialised translation, in literary translation, the translator can be more authentic and has fewer restrictions to follow.

Specialised translation and terminology are closely correlated, as a matter of fact “The first condition for a clear and rigorous scientific exposition is the correct choice of terms, which allows to describe and explain effectively scientific and technological phenomena” (Scarpa 2001:45), so in order to clearly present a scientific topic, it is necessary to refer to specific terms so that addressees will not misunderstand what they are reading, but immediately gather the sense and aim.

Furthermore, terminology has two main functions: the representative function and the communicative function. In the former “the specialistic concepts are represented after the style of artificial languages with a unique symbolic title. This function is tied to scientific and technological specialized scopes, but also to linguistic engineering, computational linguistic and drafting of technical documentation” (Scarpa 2001:47), whereas the latter “has the aim to reveal the various functions of natural languages by transferring specialized concepts on both direct communication (between experts), and indirect communication (through language advisors, technical communicators, translators, specialist journalist and more)” (Scarpa 2001:47).

Moreover, during the last decades, a serious factor that contributed to the development of terminological research for translators is technology. As a matter of fact, nowadays translators do not simply consult tools on paper or thesauruses, but rely on technological tools such as automatic terminology processing methods and terminology management systems (Kaguera and Marshman 2019:62), which allow them to have correct and precise vocabulary to use. When dealing with specific topics, a necessary practice to undertake is ‘automatic term extraction’ (ATE), which according to Pitar (2016:63) “are automatic term acquisition tools, which employ a method of contrasting specialised and non-specialised corpuses with the aim of identifying terms. They allow the insertion of a text and return as a main result a list of candidate terms extracted from the text”. Furthermore, as Kaguera and Marshman state, these software can be classified into ‘monolingual extraction’ and ‘bilingual or multilingual extraction’. Another tool translators can use are

concordances, which, as Pitar affirms (2016:63) “are simpler text analysers which allow the search for the contexts of a chosen word within a corpus. The contexts may vary in length depending on the user’s choice”. For this tool as well, concordances can be carried out in both monolingual and bilingual versions.

In conclusion, regardless of what tools are used to tackle a translation job, traditional or not, it remains essential to have all the necessary preparation and rely on reliable materials to guarantee a quality result.

Chapter 2

Challenges and tools

Introduction

In this second chapter I will illustrate another two essential components of translating activity. First I will examine how to revise and edit translations effectively, and then will discuss the use of corpora.

2.1 Editing and revising

Editing and revising are two crucial steps that writers and translators are used to undertaking while working on their next publications and translations. Editing is not a process that occurs in the same way for everyone: some may apply corrections while translating, whereas others prefer doing it at the very end. Clearly, everyone has their own strategies, techniques, and plans for completing their tasks. Taking up the issue from section 1.2 (p. 8) as Ulrych affirms “There is no *one* single way to translate all kind of texts, just as there is no *one* single way to formulate a message within the same languages” (2001:290). Also considering the vastness of terms and words that a language can have, it is useful to carry out a control activity to make changes and make the target text more comprehensible and clear.

2.1.1 The process of editing in translation

As for editing, Mossop means “The process of checking a non-translational text for error and making appropriate amendments, with special attention to making a text suitable for its readers and intended use” (2001:166). It is common for translators to find themselves having to correct or modify the structure of the texts they are working on, or even their content, due to certain types of errors which we will see later on.

A particular skill typical of professional translators is “mental editing”, which consists in “Correcting or improving the writing quality of a text while translating it” (Mossop 2001: 168), in order to make the reading smoother and easier to understand. This way translators avoid errors such as redundancy and inconsistency and save time. To give an example, since in the next chapter I will illustrate my translated versions of some informative articles originally written by the journalist and activist George Monbiot, a sentence like

“The demand to decarbonise our economies is not just a threat to carbon-intensive industry; it is a threat to the world order that permits powerful men to dominate us” can be translated as “La richiesta di decarbonizzare le nostre economie non è solo una minaccia per le industrie ad alta intensità di carbonio, ma anche per l’ordine delle cose che permette ai potenti di dominarci”, by replacing the second ‘threat’ with ‘ma anche’, so that redundancy is avoided and emphasis is placed on the second clause.

According to what has emerged from some linguistic studies, this kind of activity is involved in what experts call “structural editing” (Mossop 2001:58), a process that establishes changes of the structure of paragraphs, sentences or the format of the text itself, such as from prose to a point-form list, tables, headings or even graphic entities.

When editing a text during translation, we may find various errors due to distractions or ignorance by the author of the ST; the most common types of mistakes are factual, logical or mathematical. As the term itself suggests, we talk about factual errors when in the ST appear misconceptions concerning facts; the writer could commit this kind of inaccuracy by displaying, for instance, an incorrect date referring to an historical fact, or incoherent street addresses, incorrect website addresses, wrong names of organizations, incorrect references and also quotations (Mossop 2001:64). Not all factual errors are immediately recognizable by readers or translators, unless they are experts in the field or the fact is widely known.

As for logical errors instead, they consist of reporting facts and information that appear irrational and vague from a first reading. As Mossop reports “This category of error includes contradictions, nonsense, tautologies, impossible time sequences, and confusions of cause and effect” (2001:66). Then, there are mathematical errors (Mossop 2001:67); as the expression itself suggests, it has to do with numbers, in particular with dates, digits, measures, percentages and proportions between different units of measurement. To give an example, sometimes authors have to compare the cost of an item in another national currency, so they need to make a calculation, but not always do it correctly. Automatically, the reasoning will result confusing and superficial.

When translators run into these kinds of errors there are different ways they can act, on the basis of the entity of the mistake itself. Generally, as Mossop suggests, lesser logical and mathematical errors can be corrected by translators if necessary; otherwise, “Factual errors should be corrected if they seem to be inadvertent but not if they are important as indicators of the author’s ignorance of the facts” (2001:67). The best way to avoid such errors and miscalculation would be the cooperation between author and translator from the beginning; but this is not always possible.

2.1.2 The revision task

In this section I will explore which are the main activities correlated to revision and how to do it effectively.

The revision task is “The process of checking a *draft translation* for *errors* and making appropriate *amendments*” (Mossop 2001:169). This process can be conducted in many ways according to the guidelines of the company and the collaborations between its members: there may be senior translators who occupy the position of official revisers, appointed to revise the tasks of other colleagues; otherwise, they could supervise the assignments of newcomers to help them, or examine the commissions made by contractors (Mossop 2001). What is certain is that all revisors have the same aim: to check and amend as better as they can the texts assigned to them, by eliminating all the misconceptions and incorrect concepts, so that the finished work will result clear, accurate and intelligible.

All translator’s duties start with the brief, as Mossop reports “The brief is a set of specifications, mainly concerning the users (who will be reading the translation) and the use (why they will be reading it). The brief may also include instructions about preferred terminology, page layout, and other matters” (2001:84). This document is not always taken for granted: some clients do not supply these instructions but rely on the translators’ experience and judgement; while others, instead, prefer to furnish it. Generally, it is always positive to have specific requests to observe; this way the criteria will be respected and the final task will prove adequate and understandable to its specific target. It is essential to have clear in mind to whom the text is addressed and use an appropriate

terminology. This way recipients will grasp the purposes of the content, the delivered message is imparted and the final result successful.

To be sure of the quality of their revision, translators are used to checking the whole final result wondering what the status of the service supplied is, of the physical product and the translation itself. In particular, as Mossop (2001) states, linguists verify if deadlines are respected, staff receives the right support and their complaints are solved, layout meets the needed characteristics, and the client is content with the language and style of the product (2001:93).

2.1.3 The revision guidelines

For the purpose of making an excellent and precise revision, translators are used to following certain guidelines that will help them to achieve their goal. The strategies can be classified according to the entity of the problem, that is if it deals with transfer, content, language or style and finally physical presentation.

The main two parameters to which revisors must pay attention to are accuracy and completeness. Accuracy is, according to Mossop, “the most important feature of a translation”, indeed, “The first task of a professional translator of non-literary texts is to guarantee that the translation means what the source means” (2001:100). Moreover, the level of accuracy must be proportionate to the aim of the translation and to readers to whom it is addressed. For instance: if the topic of a scientific article is published on a dedicated website with limited access, the level of accuracy should be medium-high, since it is supposed that its addressees have a good understanding of the subject, due to the fact that they work in that field; otherwise, if the same article is presented in a magazine available for purchase at all newsagents, then most likely, the readers are not experts so the level of accuracy needed is minor, because the vital quality is that the text is correctly understood.

Regarding completeness, it refers to the amount of information and content that is reported by translators and revisors from the ST to the TT. This strategy is not carried out in one single way but depends on the type of text and on the topic that must be reported.

Mossop underlines some practices that must be respected, such as the fact that some passages of the ST can be omitted if the amount of information is sufficient or repetitive, specifically “Completeness does not require explicitness” (2001:103) especially if some concepts are easily understandable by the target audience. Otherwise, sometimes some technical or culture specific information is needed, so revisors have the duty to provide this necessity that could be missed by authors who take for granted the knowledge of some facts. In essence, the version of the final assignment will be adequate if it contains all the crucial information presented in the ST, so that the message transmitted by the author will stay unvaried and comprehensible to its recipients.

As for care translators must have towards content, the corresponding guidelines are logic and facts.

As for logic, in this field concerns the choices writers have to make in order to compose a clear, complete and coherent translation. This should ensure that in the final work there will not be any wrong temporal sequence, nonsense sentences or contradictions (Mossop 2001:104). There are two common mistakes translators tend to make on logic: the first occurs when the translator does not correct the source text, which in this case presents a confusing and complex passage. Consequently, the error will be maintained in the final version too, and the whole discourse will result contradictory. On the contrary, the second case that may occur is that translators misinterpret the source text and report it wrongly, despite the correctness of the author. Translators can make these mistakes due to lack of attention during translation and thoughtlessness or lack of knowledge on the subject.

Errors on facts, instead, as we have seen previously on section 2.1.1, concern incorrect statements or information reported by authors of source texts. In this case, these mistakes may or may not be serious, based on whether they are logical or conceptual. It depends on the discretion of the translator to correct the errors or not; it is always advisable not to ignore them and to set them right, but in the case of serious errors, it is appropriate to leave them unchanged and then point out that they are not due to the incompetence of the translator, but of the author. As Mossop states “Logical errors and (for knowledgeable readers) factual errors are egregious: they immediately call into question the competence

of either the source-text author (if the reader does not know the text is a translation) or the translator” (2001:106).

The types of errors related to language and style are smoothness, tailoring, sub-language, idioms and mechanics. Smoothness has to do with sentence structures and connections between them: in some manuals it is also known as *cohesion*, which is “the way linguistic elements connect the various part of a text” (Taylor 1998:318). In order to have cohesive language, sentences must be linear and clear both on grammatical and lexical point of view, so the addressee will understand the content on first reading. In the opinion of Ulrych “cohesive ties make a text a unified whole” (1992:213).

Furthermore, according to Taylor “Cohesion is created in a number of ways within a text and indeed refers only to the links that exist within the discourse, within the co-text, that is, created by the words themselves” (1998:19). Moreover, Ulrych affirms that “The requirement of coherence, therefore, is that a text should hang together conceptually: in other words, it should make sense and not consist of a jumble of sentences” (1992:208). In addition, as Taylor (1998) states, cohesion may be realized through conjunctions, references, ellipsis and synonyms.

Tailoring refers to the adaptations translators must apply to their works so that it will result suited and comprehensible towards recipients. According to Mossop:

The translation must have the right ‘level of language’, that is, the right degree of formality and technicality and the emotive tone, and the vocabulary must be suited to the education level of the readers [...] Otherwise, the text may not appear to be addresses to its intended audience. (2001:107)

Sub-language is the “Subset of the lexical, syntactic and rhetorical resources of a language which are typically used in a given genre and field. One of the *Language parameters of revision*” (Mossop 2001:170). Moreover, it is used primarily for communication between experts in fields such as medical, stock market and weather reports. So when referring to a specific audience, translators have to use a precise and definite language. If they are unprepared it is their duty to inquire about and study the topic to guarantee a result of high quality.

As far as idioms are concerned, it is a matter of combinations of words, specifically “are words sequences whose meaning cannot be predicted from the meanings of the individual words” (Biber, Conrad, Leech 2002:447). Every so often, translators err in transferring an idiom from one language to another. In addition, the publishing rules must be followed to respect standards and criteria for a correct translation. It also includes the control of grammar errors, spelling, punctuation and usage according to style sheets provided for the translator (Mossop 2001:110). The most common features that must be taken into consideration are syntax, capitalization, number writing and parenthetical expressions.

Another group of revision strategies concerns physical presentation and includes layout, typography and organization. For the best readability of the target text, translators must pay close attention to the layout, and therefore to how the margins and spaces between illustrations and written sections are set. It is relevant that the layout of both the source and target text remains unchanged so as to facilitate any comparison of the two by the reader, especially if it is a translation with a facing text. As regards typography, it is essential that throughout the TT the same fonts and sizes, such as bold, italics and underline, are kept for each text component. This way the final text will be far easier to read and analyse. The final parameter is organization and those who mainly deal with it are revisers. The latter must ensure that recipients will be able to navigate through the text readily, for instance to find references, paragraphs and specific contents. Consequently, it is vital that the numbering and lettering of headings, chapters, tables and their wording correspond, (Mossop 2001:112) so that addressees will not lose time leafing through pages looking for a paragraph that does not exist.

2.1.4 The correction procedure

After seeing the various errors that translators may find in a source text, now we will focus on some beneficial correction methods to rely on. This procedure is generally attributed to revisors, although, often translators are called in a second time to solve certain problems, such as the incomprehensibility of a sentence previously translated by someone else. In order to decide whether correcting a part of text or not, translators and revisors need to first determine if the correction is really necessary for the complete understanding of the work.

According to Mossop (2001), before correcting any error, revisors must read the entire translation repeatedly, to verify that all parameters explained beforehand are respected. So, after having examined logic, smoothness, tailoring, sub-language and idiomaticity, they must do a comparative control for completeness and accuracy. Secondly, what must be investigated are mechanics, layout and consistency and finally the document's organization. At this stage, corrections can be applied.

It must be known that certain mistakes can be overlooked, while others cannot, but the improvement thread is one, trying to correct as little as possible. There are two cases where is essential: when the understanding of the provisional translation proves very difficult without the source text; and when a sentence is so confusing or nonsense, that requires various readings (Mossop 2001:126). In these two instances, the revisor struggles to comprehend the meaning of what he is analysing, probably due to mistakes made by the author concerning smoothness and logic. Consequently, the text cannot remain unvaried, but corrections and rephrasing are necessary to guarantee a cohesive and coherent work.

Another aspect of revision on which revisors and translators must focus is understanding when an intervention is really necessary. As a matter of fact, modifying sentences infinite times looking for perfection can be not only impossible, but also useless or harmful given that there is no single ideal version to achieve; the most important thing is that everything is lucid and proper, following the requests written on the brief (Mossop 2001:127). Furthermore, it is suitable to make little changes whenever required, in order not to risk completely changing the subject and wasting time.

Following all these directions, trivial errors will be avoided and the final work will prove comprehensible, accurate, precise and exhaustive.

2.2 The use of corpora

For an accurate research and choice of terminology, one of the relevant tools that translators often take advantage of are linguistic corpora. As Taylor affirms:

a corpus, for the purposes of translators, is a large body of recorded text material, written and/or spoken, stored on computer and available to the user at the push of a button, available not only in the form of a mechanised dictionary, but also manipulable in the sense that information such a term's frequency of use or collocation range can be extracted. (1998:44)

By dint of these tools, which provide additional resources, insights and useful information, translators can make their jobs more specific and accurate. Their purpose, as Taylor points out, "is to provide as wide a representative sample as possible of language in use"; moreover "Through the process of concordancing, all the collocates of an item can be called up and their frequency patterns can be analysed within a given span of words" (1998:44). Furthermore, concordance allows linguists to have a wide range of references to analyse, from which they can draw on various information, for instance to understand the context of the use of a term, a nuance of its meaning or even the correct formulation of the sentence. Moreover, by using corpora translators can access more information than with simple paper dictionaries, as Akbari, Mahadi and Vaezian state "Corpora, however, are not subject to such limitations; they can contain thousands of words and are more likely to provide translators the kind of information they need" (2010:50).

Over the past few years considerable progress has been made in the studies on corpora and in their purposes; today we can identify various types of them, such as general reference corpora, monitor corpora, specialized corpora, special corpora, parallel corpora, comparable corpora, learner corpora, DIY corpora and LSP corpora (Akbari, Mahadi, Vaezian 2010:9).

2.2.1 Corpora for translation fines: types and employments

Professional translators can gain many advantages, not only regarding the contextual information useful for their tasks, but also for editing and revising texts. As Akbari, Mahadi and Vaezian and affirm "The authentic data offered by corpora, in fact, can provide translators with a reliable resource to edit and improve on different texts" (2010:52).

In addition, from different types of corpora, translators can enrich their knowledge in many different ways and fields. For example, through parallel corpora and comparable corpora translators may apprehend how a text can be translated in different versions or

how syntax can change from one language to another. As Akbari, Mahadi and Vaezian report “Parallel corpora of source texts and their translations can also help translators compare and contrast the two languages involved and get a contrastive knowledge of the respective SL and TL” (2010:57). Moreover, Musacchio affirms that “Comparable corpora are especially suited to help translators recognise features such as discourse conventions, syntax, phraseology and figures of speech” (2008:77).

Corpora can also be used for the assimilation of new concepts and terminology. As mentioned before, sometimes translators are not so familiar with the topic of the text they are going to translate, so taking advantage of the support of a relevant corpus can be an effective move to broaden their knowledge. As Akbari, Mahadi and Vaezian affirm “Corpora are other resources translators can turn to in order to acquire information on concepts. Specialized source language corpora, for instance, can well be used to acquire conceptual information” (2010:68-69). Terminology, likewise, can prove complicated to translate without a frame of reference. Through corpora frequency, translators may analyse not only new terms and their meanings, but also their common collocation. According to Akbari, Mahadi and Vaezian:

Translators deal with terminology at two levels; the specialized terms of the source text which the translators need to unfold and understand and the equivalent terms in the target language which translators need to look for and find, and corpora can help translators at both levels. (2010:69)

Translators must pay attention also on phraseology, especially if dealing with Language for Special Purposes (LSP) texts. As Palumbo states:

Beyond terminology, therefore, there are genre and/or discourse conventions and phraseological conventions that need to be considered in LSP translating for an effective transmission of knowledge and to secure inclusion in a disciplinary community for both authors and readers. (2008:70)

Furthermore, Palumbo (2008:71) affirms that in LSP translation the use of corpora is functional to understand multi-word units and compare terminology, phraseology and textual conventions through languages and cultures.

To conclude, in order to complete their work in a precise and effective manner, professional translators can use different kinds of corpora, which represent a significant contribution to increasing their linguistic knowledge and the quality of the TT.

Chapter 3

Articles

Introduction

In this chapter I will expose the translations I made from the articles of the British writer George Monbiot. The original version is on the left, whereas the translated one is on the right. The articles cover the topic of climate change and environment and are presented from the oldest to the most recent.

Noble Rot	Putrefazione nobile
Posted on 16th August 2021	Postato il 16 agosto 2021
Protecting the natural world means creating tomorrow's ancient habitats.	Proteggere il mondo naturale significa creare gli habitat antichi di domani.
By George Monbiot, published in the Guardian 8 th August 2021	Da George Monbiot, pubblicato sul Guardian l'8 agosto 2021.
We have a slow food movement and a slow travel movement. But we're missing something, and its absence contributes to our escalating crisis. We need a slow ecology movement, and we need it fast.	Abbiamo un movimento di slow food e uno di slow travel. Ma ci manca qualcosa, e la sua assenza contribuisce al peggioramento della nostra crisi. Necessitiamo di un movimento di slow ecology, e in fretta.
The majority of the world's species cannot withstand any significant disruption of their habitat by humans. Healthy ecosystems depend to a great extent on old and gnarly places, that might take centuries to develop, and are rich in what ecologists call "spatial heterogeneity": complex natural architecture.	La maggior parte delle specie del mondo non può sopportare alcuna interruzione significativa del proprio habitat da parte dell'uomo. Gli ecosistemi sani dipendono per la maggior parte da ambienti vecchi e grinzosi, che potrebbero impiegare secoli per svilupparsi, e sono ricchi di ciò che gli ecologisti chiamano "eterogeneità spaziale": un'architettura naturale complessa.
They need, for example, giant trees, whose knotty entrails are split and rotten; great reefs of coral or oysters or honeycomb worms; braiding, meandering rivers full of snags and beaver dams; undisturbed soils reamed by roots and holes.	Necessitano, per esempio, di alberi giganti, le cui viscere nodose sono spaccate e marce; grandi scogliere di coralli o ostriche o vermi nido d'ape; fiumi intrecciati e tortuosi pieni di ostacoli e dighe di castori, terreni indisturbati alesati da radici e buchi.

<p>The loss of these ancient habitats is one of the factors driving the global shift from large, slow-growing creatures to the small, short-lived species able to survive our onslaughts.</p> <p>Slow ecology would protect and create our future ancient habitats.</p> <p>At the moment, we're going in the opposite direction. Self-serving nonsense cooked up by governments and their advisers, such as "natural capital accounting" and "biodiversity net gain" treat one habitat or feature as exchangeable for another. Don't lament the twisted old oak we're felling: we'll plant 10 saplings in plastic rabbit guards in its place. Then we'll call it a "net gain".</p> <p>But there's no substitute for an ancient tree, or an ancient anything else. Big old trees are the "keystone structures" of forests, on which many other species depend. The very trees that foresters have tended to weed out – forked, twisted, lightning-struck, rotten, dead – are those that harbour the most life. For example, a single species of bracket fungus, that grows on rotten branches (dryad's saddle) harbours 246 species of beetle.</p> <p>Bats shelter in splits in the trunk. Forks hold tiny pools of water or pockets of soil. Jagged wounds where limbs have sheared, burrs and excrescences, scrapes from which resin bubbles, ivy, vines, lichens and mosses, tangles of twigs and derelict nests, peeling bark and fire scars are all crucial wildlife habitats.</p>	<p>La perdita di questi habitat antichi è uno dei fattori guida del passaggio globale dalle grandi creature a crescita lenta alle piccole specie poco longeve in grado di sopravvivere ai nostri attacchi. La slow ecology proteggerebbe e creerebbe i nostri antichi habitat futuri.</p> <p>Al momento, stiamo andando nella direzione opposta. Le sciocchezze egoistiche inventate e dai governi e dai loro consiglieri, come la "contabilità del capitale naturale" e il "guadagno netto di biodiversità" trattano un habitat o una caratteristica come se fossero sostituibili. Non lamentatevi della vecchia quercia contorta che stiamo abbattendo: planteremo dieci alberelli con protezioni in plastica per conigli. Quindi lo chiameremo un "guadagno netto".</p> <p>Ma non c'è nessun sostituto per un vecchio albero, o qualsiasi altra cosa antica. I grandi alberi secolari sono le "strutture chiave di volta" delle foreste, da cui dipendono molte altre specie animali. Gli altri alberi che i forestali hanno avuto la tendenza di sradicare - biforcuti, contorti, colpiti da fulmini, marci, morti - sono quelli che ospitano più vita. Per esempio, una singola specie di fungo della staffa, che cresce sui rami marci, (sella della driade) ospita 246 specie di scarafaggi.</p> <p>I pipistrelli si rifugiano nelle fessure del tronco. Le biforcature contengono minuscole pozze d'acqua o sacche di terreno. Ferite frastagliate dove i rami sono stati tagliati, beve ed escrescenze, graffi dai quali la resina fa le bolle, edera, viti, licheni e muschi, grovigli di ramoscelli e nidi abbandonati, corteccia scrostata e bruciature sono habitat naturali cruciali.</p>
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<p>But the most important features of ancient trees – and many other habitats – are holes.</p> <p>Between 10 and 40% of the world’s forest birds and mammals need holes in trees in which to nest or roost. Many other animals – amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates – depend on them. But these species suffer from a void of voids, an absence of absences.</p> <p>Holes take many forms: hollow trunks or branches, galleries mined by insects, cavities dug by woodpeckers. Woodpeckers are keystone species, whose tunnelling makes homes for other nesting birds and mammals. They appear to spread fungal spores on their beaks in the way that bees spread pollen, and this helps create the soft wood into which they can drill. The trees they need are big, old and rotten.</p> <p>But almost everywhere, trees like this are disappearing. Research in Poland, France, Scandinavia, the Balkans and the Carpathians shows that forests unmanaged by people have far greater numbers of crucial features even than those whose trees are harvested in the most sensitive ways. In France, for example, the number of broken forks increased by nearly 300% in the 50 years since forests were last harvested, and holes made by woodpeckers by 500%.</p> <p>A study in Australia showed that, following one of the devastating fires now scorching the continent, the great majority of trees with holes were wiped out. It will take up to 120 years without further disturbance for their full ecological complexity to recover.</p>	<p>Ma le caratteristiche più importanti degli alberi secolari, e di molti altri habitat, sono i buchi.</p> <p>Tra il 10 e il 40% degli uccelli e mammiferi delle foreste del mondo hanno bisogno di buchi negli alberi in cui nidificare o appollaiarsi. Molti altri animali (anfibi, rettili, invertebrati) dipendono da essi. Ma queste specie soffrono di un vuoto di vuoti, di un’assenza di assenze.</p> <p>I buchi hanno molte forme diverse: tronchi o rami cavi, gallerie scavate dagli insetti, cavità scavate dai picchi. I picchi sono specie cruciali, i cui tunnel fungono da case per altri uccelli o mammiferi nidificatori. Sembrano diffondere le spore fungine sui loro becchi nel modo in cui le api diffondono il polline, e questo aiuta a creare legno morbido in cui possono perforare. Gli alberi di cui hanno bisogno sono grandi, vecchi e marci.</p> <p>Ma quasi ovunque, alberi come questi stanno scomparendo. Ricerche fatte in Polonia, Scandinavia, nei Balcani e nei Carpazi dimostrano che le foreste non toccate dall’uomo hanno un numero di gran lunga maggiore di caratteristiche fondamentali, anche rispetto a quelle dove gli alberi vengono raccolti nei modi più sensibili. In Francia, per esempio, il numero di biforcature è aumentato di quasi il 300% nei 50 anni da quando le foreste sono state tagliate, e i buchi fatti dai picchi del 500%.</p> <p>Uno studio in Australia ha dimostrato che, a seguito di uno dei devastanti incendi che stanno colpendo il continente, la grande maggioranza degli alberi con buchi era stata distrutta. Ci vorranno fino a 120 anni senza ulteriori disturbi perché la loro piena complessità ecologica si riprenda.</p>
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<p>Our tidy-minded forestry and our habit of treating trees as interchangeable are devastating to wildlife.</p> <p>“Replacing” an old tree is no more meaningful than replacing an Old Master. The same applies to all ecosystems. When a trawler ploughs through biological structures on the seabed, they can take hundreds of years fully to recover. When a river is dredged and straightened, it becomes, by comparison to what it once was, an empty shell.</p> <p>So what would a slow ecology movement look like? As Henry David Thoreau said, we are rich in proportion to the number of things we can afford to let alone. To the greatest extent possible, we should allow our complex natural architectures to recover. This means keeping trawlers out of all the places farcically listed as “marine protected areas”, most of which are nothing but lines on the map. It would mean, in nature reserves, less reliance on grazing by livestock, which tend to keep living systems in a state of arrested development. It would mean letting rivers run free.</p> <p>Wherever possible, we should allow the trees killed by ash dieback and other diseases to remain standing. If one good thing arises from these plagues, it could be an increase in the amount of standing and fallen dead wood, both of which are crucial habitats. “Salvage logging” – removing dead or dying trees – is one of the most damaging human activities.</p>	<p>La nostra selvicoltura ordinata e la nostra abitudine di trattare gli alberi come cose sostituibili sono devastanti per la fauna selvatica.</p> <p>“Sostituire” un albero secolare non è più significativo che sostituire un grande maestro. La stessa cosa vale per tutti gli ecosistemi. Quando un peschereccio solca le strutture biologiche del fondale marino, possono impiegare centinaia di anni a riprendersi del tutto. Quando un fiume viene dragato e raddrizzato, diventa un guscio vuoto rispetto a quello che era una volta.</p> <p>Quindi come sarebbe un movimento di slow ecology? Come ha detto Henry David Thoreau, siamo ricchi in proporzione al numero di cose che possiamo permetterci per non disturbare. Per quanto possibile, dovremmo permettere alle nostre complesse architetture naturali di riprendersi. Questo significa tenere i pescherecci lontani da tutti i luoghi classificati come “aree marine protette”, molte delle quali non sono altro che linee sulla mappa. Significherebbe, nelle riserve naturali, una minore dipendenza dal pascolo da parte del bestiame, che tende a mantenere i sistemi viventi in uno stato di sviluppo bloccato. Significherebbe lasciar che i fiumi scorrano liberi.</p> <p>Dove possibile, dovremmo permettere agli alberi uccisi dalla cenere e altre malattie di rimanere in piedi. Se ci fosse una cosa buona che deriva da queste piaghe, potrebbe essere un aumento della quantità di legno morto in piedi e caduti, entrambi habitat cruciali. Il “diboscamento di recupero”, la rimozione di alberi morti o morenti, è una delle attività umane più dannose.</p>
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<p>Perhaps it also means a general preservation order for all trees, living or dead, greater than 100 years old: you would need express permission to fell one. It would mean a new and deeper respect for the entanglements of nature.</p> <p>We need to create today the knurled and wizened ecosystems that only our grandchildren will see. Restoring the living world means restoring complexity, and complexity takes ages to develop. So it's time we began.</p>	<p>Forse significa anche un ordine di conservazione generale per tutti gli alberi, vivi o morti, di età superiore ai cento anni: per abbatterne uno ci vorrebbe un permesso esplicito. Significherebbe un nuovo e più profondo rispetto per i grovigli della natura.</p> <p>Dobbiamo creare oggi gli ecosistemi zigrinati e avvizziti che solo i nostri nipoti vedranno. Ripristinare il mondo vivente significa ripristinare la complessità, e la complessità richiede secoli per svilupparsi. Quindi è ora di iniziare.</p>
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<p>Level Down</p> <p>Posted on 4th October 2021</p> <p>The living world is being hit by everything at once: the only way to stop our full-spectrum assault on Earth systems is to reduce our economic activity.</p> <p>By George Monbiot, published in the Guardian 29th September 2021</p> <p>There is a box labelled “climate”, in which politicians discuss the climate crisis. There is a box named “biodiversity”, in which they discuss the biodiversity crisis. There are plenty of other boxes, such as pollution, deforestation, overfishing and soil loss, gathering dust in our planet’s lost property department.</p> <p>But all these boxes contain aspects of one crisis, that we have divided up to make it comprehensible. The categories the</p>	<p>Scendere di livello</p> <p>Postato il 4 ottobre 2021</p> <p>Il mondo vivente è stato colpito da tutto in una volta: l'unico modo per fermare il nostro assalto a largo spettro ai sistemi terrestri è ridurre la nostra attività economica.</p> <p>Da George Monbiot, pubblicato sul Guardian il 29 settembre 2021</p> <p>C'è una scatola etichettata “clima”, nella quale i politici discutono della crisi climatica. C'è una scatola chiamata “biodiversità”, in cui appunto ne discutono. C'è pieno di altre scatole, come quella dell'inquinamento, della deforestazione, della pesca abusiva e della rovina del terreno, che prendono polvere nel reparto degli oggetti smarriti del nostro pianeta.</p> <p>Ma tutte queste scatole contengono aspetti di una sola crisi, che abbiamo diviso per renderla comprensibile. Le categorie che il</p>
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<p>human brain creates to make sense of its surroundings are not, as Immanuel Kant observed, the Thing-in-Itself. They describe perceptual artefacts, rather than the world.</p> <p>Nature recognises no such divisions. As Earth systems are assaulted by everything at once, each source of stress compounds the others.</p> <p>Take the situation of the North Atlantic Right Whale, whose population recovered a little when whaling ceased, but is now slumping again: only 95 females of breeding age remain. The immediate causes of this decline are mostly deaths and injuries when the whales are hit by ships or tangled in fishing gear. But they've become more vulnerable to these impacts because they've had to shift along the eastern seaboard of North America, into busy waters.</p> <p>Their main prey, a small swimming crustacean called <i>Calanus finmarchicus</i>, is moving north at the rate of 8km a year, because the sea is heating. As climate breakdown continues, its population in the region is likely to decline by around a third by the end of the century. At the same time, a commercial fishing industry has developed, exploiting <i>Calanus</i> for the fish oil supplements falsely believed to be beneficial to our health. There's been no attempt to assess the likely impacts. We also have no idea what the impact of ocean acidification – also caused by rising carbon dioxide levels – might be on <i>Calanus</i> and many other crucial species.</p>	<p>cervello umano crea per dare senso a ciò che lo circonda non sono, come aveva osservato Immanuel Kant, la Cosa in Sé. Esse descrivono artefatti percettivi, piuttosto che il mondo.</p> <p>La natura non riconosce tali divisioni. Poiché i sistemi terrestri vengono assaliti da tutto in una volta, ogni fonte di stress aggrava le altre.</p> <p>Prendete la situazione della balena franca nordatlantica, la cui popolazione si era ripresa un poco quando la caccia alle balene era cessata, ma che ora sta peggiorando di nuovo: rimangono solo 95 femmine in età produttiva. Le cause immediate di questo declino sono per la maggior parte le morti e le ferite che le balene si procurano venendo colpite dalle navi o rimanendo intrappolate nelle reti da pesca. Sono diventate più vulnerabili a questi impatti perché hanno dovuto spostarsi lungo la costa orientale del Nord America, in acque trafficate.</p> <p>La loro preda principale, un piccolo crostaceo nuotatore chiamato <i>Calanus finmarchicus</i>, si sta spostando verso nord con un tasso di 8km l'anno, perché il mare si sta riscaldando. Mentre la crisi climatica continua, è probabile che la sua popolazione nella regione diminuisca di circa un terzo entro la fine del secolo. Allo stesso tempo, si è sviluppata un'industria della pesca commerciale, che sfrutta il <i>Calanus</i> per gli integratori di olio di pesce, creduti inverosimilmente benefici per la nostra salute. Non c'è stato alcun tentativo di accertare simili impatti. Non abbiamo nemmeno idea di quale possa essere l'impatto dell'acidificazione degli oceani, causata anche dall'aumento dei livelli di anidride carbonica, su animali come il <i>Canalus</i> e molte altre specie cruciali.</p>
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As the death rate of right whales rises, their birthrate falls. Why? Perhaps because of the pollutants accumulating in their bodies, some of which are likely to reduce fertility. Or because of ocean noise from boat engines, sonar and oil and gas exploration, which stresses them and disrupts their communication. So you could call the decline of this species a shipping crisis, or a fishing crisis, or a climate crisis, or an acidification crisis, or a pollution crisis, or a noise crisis. But it is in fact all of these things: a general crisis caused by human activity.

Or look at moths in the United Kingdom. We know they are being harmed by pesticides. But the impact of these toxins on moths has been researched, as far as I can discover, only individually. Studies of bees show that when pesticides are combined, their effects are synergistic: in other words the damage they each cause isn't added, but multiplied. When pesticides are combined with fungicides and herbicides, the effects are multiplied again.

Simultaneously, moth caterpillars are losing their food plants, thanks to fertilisers and habitat destruction. Climate chaos has also knocked their reproductive cycle out of sync with the opening of the flowers on which the adults depend. Now we discover that light pollution also has devastating effects on their breeding success. The switch from orange sodium streetlights to white LEDs saves energy, but their wider colour spectrum turns out to be disastrous for insects. Light pollution is spreading rapidly, even around protected areas, affecting animals almost everywhere.

Come il tasso di mortalità delle balene franche aumenta, quello di natalità cala. Come mai? Forse a causa delle sostanze inquinanti che si accumulano nei loro corpi, di cui certe possono ridurre la fertilità. O forse a causa del rumore oceanico dei motori delle barche, del sonar e dell'esplorazione di petrolio e gas, che provoca loro stress e interrompe le loro comunicazioni. Quindi potreste chiamare il declino di questa specie una crisi marittima, o della pesca, o climatica, o di acidificazione, o d'inquinamento o di rumore. Ma si tratta, in realtà, di tutte queste cose: una crisi generale causata dall'attività umana.

Oppure date un'occhiata alle falene in Inghilterra. Sappiamo che recano danni dai pesticidi. Ma l'impatto di queste tossine sulle falene è stato studiato, da quello che sono riuscito a scoprire, solo individualmente. Studi sulle api dimostrano che quando i pesticidi vengono combinati, i loro effetti sono sinergici: in altre parole il danno che ciascuno provoca non si somma, ma si moltiplica. Quando i pesticidi sono combinati con i fungicidi e gli erbicidi, i loro effetti moltiplicano di nuovo.

Allo stesso tempo, i bruchi di falena stanno perdendo le piante di cui si cibano, a causa dei fertilizzanti e alla distruzione degli habitat. La crisi climatica ha anche colpito il loro ciclo riproduttivo, fuori sincrono con l'apertura dei fiori dai quali gli adulti dipendono. Ora scopriamo che anche l'inquinamento luminoso ha effetti devastanti sul loro successo riproduttivo. Il passaggio dai lampioni al sodio arancioni ai LED bianchi consente di risparmiare energia, ma il loro spettro cromatico più ampio si rivela disastroso per gli insetti. L'inquinamento luminoso

<p>Combined impacts are laying waste to entire living systems. When coral reefs are weakened by the fishing industry, pollution and the bleaching caused by global heating, they are less able to withstand the extreme climate events, such as tropical cyclones, that our fossil fuel emissions have also intensified. When rainforests are fragmented by timber cutting and cattle ranching, and ravaged by imported tree diseases, they become more vulnerable to the droughts and fires caused by climate breakdown.</p> <p>What would we see if we broke down our conceptual barriers? We would see a full spectrum assault on the living world. Scarcely anywhere is now safe from this sustained assault. A recent scientific paper estimates that only 3% of the Earth's land surface should now be considered "ecologically intact".</p> <p>The various impacts have a common cause: the sheer volume of economic activity. We are doing too much of almost everything, and the world's living systems cannot bear it. But our failure to see the whole ensures that we fail to address this crisis systemically and effectively.</p> <p>When we box up this predicament, our efforts to solve one aspect of the crisis exacerbate another. For example, if we were to build sufficient direct air capture machines to make a major difference to atmospheric carbon concentrations, this would demand a massive new wave of</p>	<p>si sta diffondendo rapidamente, anche attorno alle aree protette, colpendo gli animali quasi ovunque.</p> <p>Impatti combinati stanno devastando interi sistemi viventi. Quando le barriere coralline sono indebolite dall'industria della pesca, dall'inquinamento e dallo sbiancamento causati dal riscaldamento globale, sono meno in grado di resistere agli eventi climatici estremi, come i cicloni tropicali, che le nostre emissioni di combustibili fossili hanno intensificato. Quando le foreste pluviali sono distrutte dal taglio del legname e dall'allevamento di bestiame, e devastate dalle malattie di alberi importati, diventano più vulnerabili alla siccità e agli incendi causati dalla crisi climatica.</p> <p>Cosa vedremmo se abbattessimo le nostre barriere concettuali? Vedremmo un assalto a largo spettro al mondo vivente. Pochi luoghi ora sono al sicuro da questo attacco prolungato. Un recente articolo scientifico stima che solo il 3% delle terre della superficie terrestre sarebbe considerato "ecologicamente intatto".</p> <p>I vari impatti hanno una causa comune: l'enorme volume di attività economica. Stiamo facendo troppo di quasi tutto e i sistemi viventi del pianeta non possono sopportarlo. Ma la nostra incapacità di vedere l'insieme garantisce che non riusciamo ad affrontare questa crisi climatica in modo sistematico ed efficace.</p> <p>Quando risolviamo questa situazione difficile, i nostri sforzi di risolvere un aspetto della crisi ne esacerba un altro. Per esempio, se dovessimo costruire sufficienti macchine di cattura diretta dell'aria per fare una grande differenza circa le concentrazioni atmosferiche di carbonio, questo richiederebbe una nuova</p>
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<p>mining and processing, to make the steel and concrete.</p> <p>The impact of such construction pulses travels around the world. To take just one component, the mining of sand, mostly to make concrete and asphalt, is trashing hundreds of precious habitats. It's especially devastating to rivers, whose sand is highly sought in construction. Rivers are already being hit by drought, the disappearance of mountain ice and snow, our extraction of water and pollution from farming, sewage and industry. Sand dredging, on top of these assaults, could be a final, fatal blow.</p> <p>Or look at the materials required for the electronics revolution that will, apparently, save us from climate breakdown. Already, mining and processing the minerals required for magnets and batteries is laying waste to habitats and causing new pollution crises. Now, as Johnathan Watts's terrifying article in the Guardian this week shows, companies are using the climate crisis as justification for extracting minerals from the deep ocean floor, long before we have any idea of what the impacts might be.</p> <p>This isn't, in itself, an argument against direct air capture machines or other "green" technologies. But if they have to keep pace with an ever-growing volume of economic activity, and if the growth of this activity is justified by the existence of those machines, the net result will be ever greater harm to the living world.</p>	<p>intensa ondata di attività estrattiva e di processo, per produrre acciaio e calcestruzzo.</p> <p>L'impatto di tali impulsi di costruzione viaggia in tutto il mondo. Per prenderne solo un esempio, l'estrazione della sabbia, principalmente per produrre cemento e asfalto, sta distruggendo centinaia di preziosi habitat. È particolarmente devastante per i fiumi, la cui sabbia è molto ricercata per le costruzioni. I fiumi sono già colpiti dalla siccità, dalla scomparsa del ghiaccio e dalla neve, dalla nostra estrazione d'acqua e dall'inquinamento dalle fattorie, dalle acque di scolo e dall'industria. Il dragaggio della sabbia, in cima tra questi assalti, potrebbe essere un ultimo colpo fatale.</p> <p>Oppure guardate ai materiali necessari per la rivoluzione elettronica che, apparentemente, ci salverà dal collasso climatico. L'estrazione e la lavorazione dei minerali richiesti per i magneti e le batterie sta già devastando gli habitat e provocando nuove crisi di inquinamento. Ora, come dimostra il terrificante articolo di Johnathan Watt sul Guardian di questa settimana, le aziende stanno usando la crisi climatica come giustificazione per estrarre i minerali dai fondali oceanici, molto prima di avere un'idea di quali possano essere gli impatti.</p> <p>Questo non è, di per sé, una discussione contro le macchine a cattura d'aria diretta o altre tecnologie "green". Ma se devono stare al passo con un volume d'attività economica in continua crescita, e se la crescita di questa attività è giustificata dall'esistenza di quelle macchine, il risultato netto sarà di un danno sempre maggiore per il mondo vivente.</p>
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<p>But everywhere, governments seek to ramp up the economic load, talking of “unleashing our potential” and “supercharging our economy”. Boris Johnson insists that “a global recovery from the pandemic must be rooted in green growth”. But there is no such thing as green growth. Growth is wiping the green from the Earth.</p> <p>We have no hope of emerging from this full-spectrum crisis unless we ramp down economic activity. Wealth must be distributed – a constrained world cannot afford the rich – but it must also be reduced. Sustaining our life-support systems means doing less of almost everything. But this notion – which should be central to a new, environmental ethics – is secular blasphemy.</p>	<p>Ma ovunque, i governi cercano di aumentare il carico economico, parlando di “liberare il nostro potenziale” e “sovralimentare la nostra economia”. Boris Johnson insiste sul fatto che «Una ripresa globale dalla pandemia deve essere radicata in una crescita verde». Ma non esiste una cosa come la crescita verde. La crescita sta cancellando il verde dalla Terra.</p> <p>Non abbiamo speranza di uscire da questa crisi a largo spettro se non rallenteremo l’attività economica. La ricchezza deve essere distribuita (un mondo limitato non può permettersi i ricchi) ma deve anche essere ridotta. Sostenere i nostri sistemi di supporto alla vita significa fare meno di quasi tutto. Ma questa nozione, che dovrebbe essere centrale per una nuova etica ambientale, è una blasfemia secolare.</p>
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<p>Willing the End</p> <p>Posted on 14th July 2022</p> <p>On both sides of the Atlantic, powerful interests seem determined to trigger the collapse of life on Earth. Why?</p> <p>By George Monbiot, published in the Guardian 6th July 2022</p> <p>It feels like the end game. In the US last week, the third perverse and highly partisan supreme court decision in a few days made American efforts to prevent climate breakdown almost impossible.</p> <p>Ruling in favour of the state of West Virginia, the court decided that the Environmental Protection Agency is not</p>	<p>Volendo la fine</p> <p>Postato il 14 luglio 2022</p> <p>Su entrambe le sponde dell’Atlantico, interessi potenti sembrano determinati a provocare il collasso della vita sulla Terra. Perché?</p> <p>Da George Monbiot, pubblicato sul Guardian il 6 luglio 2022</p> <p>Sembra la fase finale. Negli Stati Uniti la scorsa settimana, la terza decisione perversa e altamente partigiana della Corte Suprema ha reso in pochi giorni gli sforzi americani di prevenire il collasso climatico quasi impossibili.</p> <p>Governando in favore dello stato del West Virginia, la Corte ha deciso che l’Agenzia</p>
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<p>entitled to restrict carbon dioxide emissions from power stations.</p> <p>The day before, in the UK, the government's climate change committee reported a "shocking" failure by Boris Johnson's administration to meet its climate targets. So stupid and perverse are its policies on issues such as energy saving that it's hard to see this as anything other than failure by design. On the day of the supreme court ruling, the UK government also announced that it intended to scrap the law protecting the UK's most important wildlife sites.</p> <p>But the final straw for me was a smaller decision. After two decades of disastrous policies that turned its rivers into open sewers, Herefordshire county council, following a shift from Tory to independent control, finally did the right thing. It applied to the government to create a water protection zone, defending the River Wye against the pollution pushing it towards complete ecological collapse. But in a letter published last week, the UK's environment minister, Rebecca Pow, refused permission, claiming it "would impose new and distinct regulatory obligations on the farmers and businesses within the catchment". This is, of course, the point.</p> <p>It's the pettiness of the decision that makes it so shocking. Even when the cost to the government is small, it seems determined to destroy everything good</p>	<p>per la Protezione Ambientale non ha il diritto di limitare le emissioni di disossido di carbonio dalle centrali elettriche.</p> <p>Il giorno prima, in Inghilterra, la commissione governativa per i cambiamenti climatici ha riportato uno "scioccante" fallimento da parte dell'amministrazione di Boris Johnson per raggiungere i suoi obiettivi sul clima. Le sue politiche su questioni come il risparmio energetico sono così stupide e perverse che è difficile vederle come qualcosa di diverso da un fallimento progettuale. Nel giorno della sentenza della Corte Suprema, il Governo britannico ha anche annunciato l'intenzione di abolire la legge che protegge i più importanti siti faunistici inglesi.</p> <p>Ma l'ultima goccia per me è stata una decisione più piccola. Dopo due decenni di politiche disastrose che hanno trasformato i suoi fiumi in fogne a cielo aperto, il Consiglio della contea di Herefordshire, diventando indipendente dal Partito Conservatore inglese, ha finalmente fatto la cosa giusta. Ha fatto richiesta presso il governo per creare una zona a protezione delle acque, difendendo il fiume Wye difendendolo dall'inquinamento che lo spinge verso il collasso ecologico totale. Ma in una lettera pubblicata la settimana scorsa, il ministro dell'ambiente britannico, Rebecca Pow, ha negato il permesso affermando che "avrebbe imposto nuovi obblighi normativi distinti verso gli allevatori e alle imprese all'interno del bacino". Questo è, chiaramente, il nocciolo della questione.</p> <p>È la meschinità della decisione che la rende così scioccante. Anche quando il costo per il governo è esiguo, sembra determinato a distruggere tutto ciò che è</p>
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<p>and valuable about this country. It's as if, when ministers go to bed, they ask themselves, "What have I done to make the UK a worse place today?"</p> <p>Just at the point at which we need a coordinated global effort to escape our existential crises – climate breakdown, ecological breakdown, the rising tide of synthetic chemicals, a gathering global food emergency – those who wield power string razor wire across the exit.</p> <p>When I began work as an environmental journalist in 1985, I knew I would struggle against people with a financial interest in destructive practices. But I never imagined that we would one day confront what appears to be an ideological commitment to destroying life on Earth. The UK government and the US supreme court look as if they are willing the destruction of our life support systems.</p> <p>The supreme court's ruling was neither random nor based on established legal principles. It arose from a concerted programme to replace democracy in the US with judicial dictatorship.</p> <p>As Senator Sheldon Whitehouse has documented, hundreds of millions of dollars in dark money (funds whose sources are unknown) were poured into the nomination and confirmation of the three judges appointed to the court by Donald Trump. Among the groups leading these campaigns was American for Prosperity, set up by the Koch brothers: oil tycoons with a long record of funding radical rightwing causes. As an investigation by Earth Uprising shows, there's a strong correlation between the amount of oil and gas money US senators have received, and their approval of</p>	<p>giusto e prezioso per questo Paese. È come se i ministri, nel momento di andare a dormire, si chiedano, "Cosa ho fatto per rendere l'Inghilterra un posto peggiore oggi?"</p> <p>Proprio nel momento in cui abbiamo bisogno di uno sforzo mondiale coordinato per sfuggire alle nostre crisi esistenziali – la crisi climatica, la crisi ecologica, la marea crescente di prodotti chimici sintetici, un'emergenza alimentare globale in aumento – coloro che detengono il potere appendono il filo spinato attraverso l'uscita.</p> <p>Quando ho iniziato a lavorare come un giornalista ambientale nel 1985, sapevo che avrei lottato contro persone con interessi finanziari in pratiche distruttive, ma mai avrei immaginato che un giorno avremo affrontato ciò che appare come un impegno a distruggere la vita sulla Terra. Il Governo britannico e la Corte Suprema americana sembrano voler distruggere i nostri sistemi di supporto vitale. La decisione della Corte Suprema non era né casuale né basata su principi legali stabiliti. Nasce da un programma concentrato per sostituire la democrazia negli Stati Uniti con dittatura giudiziaria.</p> <p>Come il Senatore Sheldon Whitehouse ha documentato, centinaia di milioni di dollari in nero (fondi derivanti da fonti sconosciute) sono stati versati nella nomina e conferma dei tre giudici designati alla corte di Donald Trump. Tra i gruppi che guidavano queste campagne c'era l'American for Prosperity, creato dai fratelli Koch: magnati del petrolio con una lunga storia di finanziamento di cause di destra radicale. Come dimostra un'investigazione condotta da Earth Uprising, c'è una forte correlazione fra la quantità di denaro proveniente dal petrolio</p>
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<p>Trump's supreme court justice nominations.</p> <p>Once the favoured justices were in place, the same networks started using their financial power to steer their decisions. They do so through "amicus briefs": advice notes to the court supporting a plaintiff's position. The judicial process is meant to be unswayed by political pressure, but amicus briefs have become one of the most powerful of all lobbying tools. As Whitehouse points out, the funders of these briefs are "not just 'friends of the court' – in many cases, they are quite literally friends of the judges they have put on the court".</p> <p>While some oligarchs lobby within the judicial system, others operate to great effect outside it, distorting public perceptions about such rulings through a barrage of propaganda in the media. No one, arguably, has done more to stymie effective environmental action than Rupert Murdoch.</p> <p>In this case, the supreme court has strayed way beyond its mandate of interpreting the law, into the territory of the executive and the legislature: making the law. It is imposing policies that would never survive democratic scrutiny, if they were put to the vote. By seizing control of regulatory power, it sets a precedent that could stymie almost any democratic decision.</p> <p>All this might seem incomprehensible. Why would anyone want to trash the living world? Surely even billionaires want a habitable and beautiful planet? Don't they like snorkelling on coral reefs, salmon fishing in pristine rivers, skiing on</p>	<p>e dal gas che i senatori statunitensi hanno ricevuto, e l'approvazione delle nomine alla corte di giustizia suprema di Trump.</p> <p>Una volta insediati i giudici privilegiati, le stesse reti hanno iniziato a usare il loro potere finanziario per guidare le loro decisioni. Lo fanno tramite "amicus brief": note di consiglio alla Corte di supporto alla posizione del querelante. Il processo giudiziario non dovrebbe essere influenzato dalla pressione politica, ma gli amicus brief sono diventati uno degli strumenti di lobbying più potenti. Come sottolinea Whitehouse, i fondatori di questi mandati "non sono solo amici della Corte, in molti casi, sono letteralmente amici dei giudici che hanno messo in tribunale".</p> <p>Mentre alcuni oligarchi esercitano pressioni all'interno del sistema giudiziario, altri operano con grande efficacia al di fuori di esso, distorcendo la percezione pubblica su tali sentenze tramite una raffica di propaganda nei media. Nessuno, probabilmente, ha fatto di più per ostacolare un'azione ambientale efficace di Rupert Murdoch.</p> <p>In questo caso, la Corte Suprema si è allontanata ben oltre il suo mandato di interpretare la legge, nel territorio dell'esecutivo e della legislatura: scrivendo la legge. Sta imponendo politiche che non sopravviverebbero mai al controllo democratico, se venissero messe ai voti. Impadronendosi il controllo del potere di regolamentazione, stabilisce un precedente che potrebbe ostacolare o ogni decisione democratica. Tutto questo sembra incomprendibile. Perché mai qualcuno vorrebbe buttare via il mondo vivente? Di sicuro anche i miliardari vogliono un pianeta abitabile e bello, no? Non gli piace forse fare</p>
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snowy mountains? We suffer from a deep incomprehension of why such people act as they do. We fail to distinguish preferences from interests, and interests from power. It is hard for those of us who have no desire for power over others to understand people who do. So we are baffled by the decisions they make, and attribute them to other, improbable causes. Because we do not understand them, we are the more easily manipulated.

The media often represent politicians' interests as if they were mere political preferences. Very rarely is the lobbying and political funding behind a decision explained in the news. The Conservatives don't permit intensive livestock units and sewage treatment works to pour filth into rivers because they like pollution. They do so on behalf of the powerful interests to whom they feel obliged, such as the water companies and their shareholders, the farming lobbies and the billionaire press.

But even financial interests fail fully to explain what's going on. The oligarchs seeking to stamp out US democracy have gone way beyond the point of attending only to their net worth. It's no longer about money for them. It's about brute power: about watching the world bow down before them. For this rush of power, they would forfeit the Earth.

All these cases expose the same political vulnerability: the ease with which democracy is crushed by the power of money. We cannot protect the living

snorkeling nelle barriere coralline, pescare salmoni in fiumi incontaminati o sciare su montagne innevate? Noi soffriamo di una grande incompreensione sul perché certe persone agiscano in certi modi. Non riusciamo a distinguere le preferenze dagli interessi, e gli interessi dal potere. È difficile per quelli di noi che non hanno desiderio di potere sugli altri, comprendere le persone che lo fanno. Quindi siamo sconcertati dalle decisioni che prendono e le attribuiamo ad altre cause improbabili. Perché non li capiamo, e siamo più facilmente manipolabili.

I media spesso rappresentano gli interessi dei politici come se fossero semplici preferenze politiche. Raramente le attività di lobbying e il finanziamento politico dietro una decisione vengono spiegati ai notiziari. I Conservatori non permettono alle unità di allevamento intensivo e ai lavori di trattamento delle acque reflue di gettare sporcizia nei fiumi perché amano l'inquinamento. Lo fanno per conto dei potenti interessi a cui si sentono obbligati, come le compagnie idriche e i loro azionisti, le lobby agricole e la stampa miliardaria.

Ma anche gli interessi finanziari non riescono a spiegare pienamente cosa sta succedendo. Gli oligarchi che cercano di sopprimere la democrazia americana sono andati ben oltre al punto di presenziare al loro patrimonio netto. Non è più una questione di soldi per loro. È una questione di potere bruto: di guardare il mondo inchinarsi dinanzi a loro. Per questa corsa al potere, farebbero decadere la Terra.

Tutti questi casi mostrano la stessa vulnerabilità politica: la facilità con cui la democrazia viene schiacciata dal potere del denaro. Non possiamo proteggere il

<p>world, or women’s reproductive rights, or anything else we value until we get the money out of politics, and break up the media empires that make a mockery of informed political consent.</p>	<p>mondo vivente, o i diritti riproduttivi delle donne, o qualsiasi altra cosa che apprezziamo finché non avremo i soldi fuori dalla politica e disperdiamo gli imperi dei media che si fanno gioco del consenso politico informato.</p>
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<p>Days of Rage</p> <p>Posted on 19th July 2022</p> <p>System change is – and has always been – our only realistic means of defending the living planet.</p> <p>By George Monbiot, published in the Guardian 19th July 2022</p> <p>Can we talk about it now? I mean the subject most of the media and most of the political class has been avoiding for so long. You know, the only subject that ultimately counts – the survival of life on Earth. Everyone knows, however carefully they avoid the topic, that, beside it, all the topics filling the front pages and obsessing the pundits are dust. Even the Times editors still publishing columns denying climate science know it. Even the candidates for the Tory leadership, ignoring or downplaying the issue, know it. Never has a silence been so loud or so resonant.</p> <p>This is not a passive silence. It is an active silence, a fierce commitment to distraction and irrelevance in the face of an existential crisis. It is a void assiduously filled with trivia and amusement, gossip and spectacle. Talk about anything, but not about this.</p>	<p>Giorni di rabbia</p> <p>Postato il 19 luglio 2022</p> <p>Il cambio del sistema è, ed è sempre stato, il nostro vero modo di difendere il pianeta.</p> <p>Da George Monbiot, pubblicato sul Guardian il 19 luglio 2022</p> <p>Ora ne possiamo parlare? Intendo dell’argomento che la maggior parte dei media e della classe politica ha evitato per così tanto tempo? Sapete, l’unica cosa che ultimamente conta: la sopravvivenza della vita sulla Terra. Tutti sanno, per quanto evitino accuratamente l’argomento, che, oltre ad esso, tutti i temi che riempiono le prime pagine e ossessionano gli esperti sono polvere. Anche gli editori del Times pubblicano ancora rubriche che negano che la scienza sappia del clima. Anche i candidati alla guida del Partito Conservatore inglese che ignorano o sminuiscono il problema, ne sono a conoscenza. Mai il silenzio è stato più rumoroso e risonante. Questo non è un silenzio passivo. È un silenzio attivo, un impegno feroce alla distrazione e all’irrelevanza in vista di una crisi esistenziale. È un vuoto riempito assiduamente con curiosità e divertimento, pettegolezzi e spettacolo. Si parla di tutto tranne che di questo.</p>
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But while the people who dominate the means of communication frantically avoid the subject, the planet speaks, in a roar becoming impossible to ignore. These days of atmospheric rage, these heat shocks and wildfires ignore the angry shushing and burst rudely into our silent retreat.

We have seen nothing yet. The dangerous heat England is suffering at the moment is already becoming normal in southern Europe, and would be counted among the cooler days during hot periods in parts of the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, where heat is becoming a regular threat to life. It cannot now be long, unless immediate and comprehensive measures are taken, before these days of rage become the norm even in our once-temperate climatic zone.

The same formula applies to every harm humans do to each other: what cannot be discussed cannot be addressed. Our failure to prevent catastrophic global heating arises above all from the conspiracy of silence that dominates public life, the same conspiracy of silence that has, at one time or another, surrounded every variety of abuse and exploitation.

We do not deserve this. The billionaire press and the politicians it promotes may deserve each other, but none of us deserves either group. They are constructing a world between them in which we have not elected to live, in which we may not be able to live. On this issue, as on so many, the people tend to be far ahead of those who claim to represent us.

Ma mentre le persone che dominano i mezzi di comunicazione evitano accanitamente la questione, il pianeta parla con delle grida che stanno diventando impossibili da ignorare. Questi giorni di clima impazzito, questi shock termici e incendi ignorano il tacere furioso e irrompono bruscamente nel nostro ritiro silenzioso.

Non abbiamo visto ancora nulla. Il preoccupante caldo di cui l'Inghilterra sta soffrendo è già diventato la normalità nell'Europa Meridionale, e rientrerebbe tra giorni più freddi dei periodi caldi di alcune parti del Medio Oriente, Africa e Asia Meridionale, dove il caldo sta diventando una minaccia costante per la vita. Non ci vorrà molto, a meno che non vengano prese misure immediate e globali, prima che questi giorni di caldo torrido diventino la norma anche nella nostra zona climatica, un tempo temperata.

La stessa formula si applica a ogni danno che gli uomini si fanno l'un l'altro: ciò che non può essere discusso non può essere affrontato. Il nostro fallimento di prevenire il catastrofico surriscaldamento globale si innalza su tutto dalla silenziosa cospirazione che domina la vita pubblica, la stessa cospirazione che prima o poi circonda ogni varietà di abuso e sfruttamento.

Non ci meritiamo questo. La banca milionaria e i politici che promuove potrebbero meritarsi a vicenda, ma nessuno di noi li merita. Stanno costruendo un loro mondo in cui non abbiamo scelto di vivere, in cui potremmo non riuscire a vivere. Riguardo questo problema, e molti altri, le persone tendono a essere molto diverse da coloro che affermano di rappresentarci.

<p>But those politicians and media barons deploy every imaginable wile and ruse to prevent decisive action from being taken.</p> <p>They do so on behalf of the fossil fuel industry, animal farming, finance, construction firms, car manufacturers and airline companies, but also on behalf of something bigger than any of those interests: the power of incumbency. Those who hold power today do so by stamping out challenges, regardless of the form they take. The demand to decarbonise our economies is not just a threat to carbon-intensive industry; it is a threat to the world order that permits powerful men to dominate us. To give ground to climate campaigners is to surrender power.</p> <p>Over the past few years, I've begun to see that mainstream environmental movements have made a terrible mistake. The theory of change pursued by most established green groups is entirely wrong. Though seldom openly articulated, it governs their strategy. It goes something like this. There is too little time and the ask is too big to try to change the system. People aren't ready for it. We don't want to scare away our members or provoke a fight with the government. So the only realistic approach is incrementalism. We will campaign, issue by issue, sector by sector, for gradual improvements. After years of persistence, the small asks will add up to the comprehensive change we seek and deliver the world we want.</p>	<p>Ma quei politici e baroni dei media dispiegano ogni astuzia e stratagemma immaginabile per impedire che azioni decisive vengano intraprese.</p> <p>Fanno questo per conto delle industrie di combustibili fossili, degli allevamenti, della finanza, delle imprese edili, delle case automobilistiche e delle compagnie aeree, ma anche per qualcosa più grande di tutto ciò: il potere dell'incombenza. Coloro che detengono il potere oggi lo ottengono abbattendo ogni problematica, indipendentemente dalla forma che assumono. La richiesta di decarbonizzare le nostre economie non è solo una minaccia per le industrie ad alta intensità di carbonio, ma anche per l'ordine delle cose che permette agli uomini potenti di dominarci. Dare terreno agli attivisti per il clima significa cedere il potere.</p> <p>Negli ultimi anni, ho iniziato a notare che i principali movimenti per il clima hanno commesso un terribile errore. La teoria del cambiamento adottata dai gruppi green più consolidati è totalmente sbagliata. Sebbene raramente articolata apertamente, governa la loro strategia. Essa afferma qualcosa di simile a questo: "C'è troppo poco tempo e la richiesta è troppo grande per provare a cambiare il sistema. Le persone non sono pronte. Non vogliamo spaventare i nostri membri o provocare una lotta col governo. Quindi l'unico approccio realistico è l'incrementalismo. Promoveremo, punto dopo punto, settore dopo settore, per dei miglioramenti gradualmente. Dopo anni di persistenza, le piccole richieste si sommeranno al cambiamento globale che cerchiamo ed esprimeranno il mondo che vogliamo".</p>
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But while they have been playing patience, power has been playing poker. The radical right insurgency has swept all before it, crushing the administrative state, destroying public protections, capturing the courts, the electoral system and the infrastructure of government, shutting down the right to protest and the right to live. While we persuaded ourselves that there is no time for system change, they proved us wrong by changing everything.

The problem was never that system change is too big an ask or takes too long. The problem is that incrementalism is too small an ask. Not just too small to drive transformation; not just too small to stop the tidal wave of revolutionary change rolling in from the opposite direction; but also too small to break the conspiracy of silence. Only a demand for system change, directly confronting the power driving us to planetary destruction, has the potential to match the scale of the problem and to inspire and mobilise the millions of people required to generate effective action.

All this time, environmentalists have been telling people we face an unprecedented, existential crisis, while simultaneously asking them to recycle their bottle tops and change their drinking straws. Green groups have treated their members like idiots and, I suspect, somewhere deep down, the members know it. Their timidity, their reluctance to say what they really want, their mistaken belief that people aren't ready to hear anything more challenging than this micro-consumerist

Ma mentre loro hanno giocato un solitario, il potere ha iniziato a giocare a poker. L'insurrezione di destra radicale ha travolto tutto davanti a sé, schiacciando lo stato amministrativo, distruggendo le protezioni pubbliche, acquisendo i tribunali, il sistema elettorale e l'infrastruttura del governo, non prestando ascolto al diritto di protestare e di vivere. Mentre ci convincevamo che non ci sarebbe stato tempo per il cambiamento di sistema, loro ci hanno dimostrato il contrario cambiando tutto.

Il problema non è mai stato che il cambio di sistema fosse una richiesta troppo grande o che richiedesse troppo tempo. Il problema è che l'incrementalismo è una richiesta troppo piccola. Troppo piccola non solo per guidare la trasformazione, non solo per fermare la marea di cambiamento rivoluzionario ondeggiante nella direzione opposta; ma anche per rompere la cospirazione del silenzio. Solo una richiesta per il cambio di sistema, confrontandosi direttamente il potere di guidarci alla distruzione del pianeta, ha il potenziale per adattarsi all'entità del problema ed ispirare e mobilitare i milioni di persone necessari per generare un'azione efficace.

Per tutto questo tempo, gli ambientalisti hanno detto alle persone che stiamo affrontando una crisi esistenziale senza precedenti, mentre allo stesso tempo gli chiedevano di riciclare i tappi di bottiglia e cambiare le cannuce. I gruppi green hanno trattato i loro membri come idioti e, sospetto che, nel profondo, questi lo sappiano. La loro timidezza, la loro riluttanza a dire quello che vogliono davvero, la loro convinzione errata che le persone non siano pronte ad ascoltare

<p>bollocks carries a significant share of the blame for global failure.</p> <p>There was never time for incrementalism. Far from being a shortcut to the change we want to see, it is a morass in which ambition sinks. System change, as the right has proved, is, and has always been, the only fast and effective means of transformation.</p> <p>Some of us know what we want: private sufficiency; doughnut economics; participatory democracy and an ecological civilisation. None of these are bigger asks than those the billionaire press has made and largely achieved: the neoliberal revolution that has swept away effective governance, effective taxation of the rich, effective restraints on the power of business and oligarchs and, increasingly, effective democracy.</p> <p>So let's break our own silence. Let's stop lying to ourselves and others by pretending that small measures deliver major change. Let's abandon the timidity and tokenism. Let's stop bringing buckets of water when only fire engines will do. Let's build our campaign for systemic change towards the critical 25% threshold of public acceptance, beyond which, a range of scientific studies suggests, social tipping happens.</p> <p>I feel clearer about what effective political action looks like than I have ever been. But a major question remains. Given that we have left it so late, can we reach the social tipping point before we hit the environmental tipping point?</p>	<p>nulla più oneroso che queste sciocchezze da micro-consumismo portano a una parte significativa di colpa per il fallimento globale.</p> <p>Non c'è mai stato tempo per l'incrementalismo. Lontano dall'essere una scorciatoia per il cambiamento che vogliamo vedere, è un pantano in cui l'ambizione puzza. Il cambio di sistema, come ha provato la destra, è, e sarà sempre, l'unico mezzo di trasformazione veloce ed efficace.</p> <p>Alcuni di noi sanno cosa vogliamo: sufficienza privata, l'economia della ciambella, democrazia partecipativa e una civilizzazione ecologica. Nessuna di queste è una richiesta più grande di quelle che la stampa miliardaria ha fatto e ampiamente ottenuto: la rivoluzione neoliberalista che ha spazzato via un governo efficace, un'efficiente tassazione dei ricchi, efficaci restrizioni ai poteri degli affari e degli oligarchi e, sempre più, una democrazia effettiva.</p> <p>Quindi interrompiamo il nostro silenzio. Smettiamo di mentire a noi stessi e agli altri fingendo che le piccole misure emettano un cambiamento maggiore. Abbandoniamo la timidezza e il tokenismo. Smettiamo di portare secchi d'acqua quando le autopompe lo faranno. Costruiamo la nostra campagna per il cambiamento di sistema verso la soglia critica del 25% di accettazione pubblica, oltre la quale, suggerisce una serie di studi scientifici, si verifica un ribaltamento sociale.</p> <p>Sono sempre più sicuro di come sia un'azione politica efficace come mai prima d'ora. Ma una domanda rimane. Dato che l'abbiamo lasciato così tardi, possiamo raggiungere il punto di svolta</p>
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	sociale prima di raggiungere il punto di svolta ambientale?
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Chapter 4

Analysis

Introduction

In this final chapter I will analyse some sections of the articles I translated in which I encountered more doubts or difficulties, explaining and justifying the solutions made. The majority of the doubts concerned terminology, in particular special languages, equivalence and revision.

4.1 Terminology and special language

As I said in the first chapter of this dissertation, in order to be as precise as possible, translators must use specific terminology, so that their translation will result authentic and precise. Sometimes, corpora are very relevant tools which can solve the translator's doubts concerning the choice of a certain term and ensure accurate work. Given the fact that "Corpora are other resources translators can turn to in order to acquire information on concepts" (Akbari, Mahadi, Vaezian 2010:68), I created a corpus to rely on, to resolve all my uncertainties and to ensure that I was making a coherent translation.

The words I had doubts about concerned specific scopes such as politics and natural phenomena. Sometimes it was difficult for me to understand the context in which certain terms were used, but through the corpus I was able to find a suitable transfer for my translations and make sure I did not misunderstand their meaning. To give some examples, some terms I will focus on are 'climate breakdown', 'slow ecology', 'slow food', 'slow travel' and 'lobbying'.

As for the expression 'climate breakdown', which appears many times in the article 'Level Down', my main doubt concerned the term 'breakdown', because I generally associate it with something related to physical conditions and not to the environment. At a first consultation in the dictionary, there appear two options as translations: 'collasso' and 'esaurimento nervoso'.

Then, by checking the corpus concordances, the results of the search are:

... con rischio di collasso cardiocircolatorio. In condizioni del genere...
 ... l'impatto irreversibile, il collasso dell'ecosistema. Il sistema economico...
 ...alberi ed ecosistema al collasso. I fattori di...

By dint of those concordances, I could figure out that the use of 'collasso' is suitable, not only for health, but also for the environment and the natural world. So, I translated the passage as follows:

<p>Or look at the materials required for the electronics revolution that will, apparently, save us from climate breakdown.</p>	<p>Oppure guardate ai materiali necessari per la rivoluzione elettronica che, apparentemente, ci salverà dal collasso climatico.</p>
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<p>As climate breakdown continues, its population in the region is likely to decline by around a third by the end of the century.</p>	<p>Mentre la crisi climatica continua, è probabile che la sua popolazione nella regione diminuisca di circa un terzo entro la fine del secolo.</p>
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I thought about a second translated version of the term 'climate breakdown' as you can see above, since the meaning in the TT stays closely unvaried and alludes to the same critical situation, because, as Ulrych affirms "There is no *one* single way to translate all kind of texts, just as there is no *one* single way to formulate a message within the same languages" (2001:290).

Another term on which I had to dwell was 'slow ecology' from the article 'Noble Rot'. I was not familiar with this expression, so I tried to figure out its meaning by searching for other similar terms in the same article, such as 'slow' and 'slow food'.

...l'ambiente. Vivere Slow: una scelta ecologica. Rallentare...
 ...e agricole. Slow Food si schiera a difesa della biodiversità...
 ...la battaglia di FAO e Slow Food per un mondo libero dalla fame...
 ...l'obiettivo di ogni progetto di Slow Food: difendere il futuro...

Through the concordances in the corpus, where “all the collocates of an item can be called up and their frequency patterns can be analysed within a given span of words” (Taylor 1998:44), I observed that the expression ‘slow food’ refers to some kind of activity that concerns sustainable agriculture and humanitarian projects to fight hunger and protect biodiversity. So, ‘slow ecology’ probably has to do with sustainable purposes too, but with a broad spectrum. Apparently, the adjective ‘slow’ alludes to the fact that, in order to be green we have to respect the rhythms of nature and not overpower it.

Considering that the Italian language lacks such an idiomatic expression, I have chosen to keep the original version as follows:

We need a slow ecology movement, and we need it fast.	Necessitiamo di un movimento di slow ecology, e in fretta.
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The term ‘slow ecology’ can be identified as loan word, which according to Taylor is “a lexical item, which may even be an expression, in one language that is used in its original form in other languages” (1998:322). Similarly, another two examples of loan words that I found in the article ‘Noble Rot’ are ‘slow food’ and ‘slow travel’:

We have a slow food movement and a slow travel movement. But we’re missing something, and its absence contributes to our escalating crisis.	Abbiamo un movimento di slow food e uno di slow travel. Ma ci manca qualcosa, e la sua assenza contribuisce al peggioramento della nostra crisi.
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As Scarpa (2001) affirms, loan words can be categorized into simple, prefixed, compound, idiom, and adapted forms, and given that the previous terms are simply reported in the TT in their original form, they can be defined as simple loan words. As

for ‘slow ecology’, the two previous concepts also refer to movements in favor of the environment, which if carried out on a large scale can have a huge positive impact on the planet. Specifically, concerning the sustainable production of food and livelihoods, the protection of land, animals and workers and learning towards healthy food education; and the conscious choice to travel in a more sustainable way, opting for a journey with fewer stages, thus remaining more immersed in the local culture and enjoying the holiday more.

I had a further concern about the word 'lobbying' present in the article ‘Willing the End’, and hence, I consulted my corpus to comprehend its meaning and the context in which it can be used also in this case.

...attivazione politica delle lobby, anche in presenza di analoghi formati di...
 ...le lobby. Le lobby o gruppi di pressione sono soggetti collettivi...
 ...legiferare sulle lobby, per attribuire un sistema di regole chiare...
 ...decisioni pubbliche. Le lobby possono aggregarsi e attivarsi politicamente...

After having analysed the concordances in the corpus, I figured out that the term ‘lobby’ concerns the political sphere, specifically pressure groups that presumably exert political influence to benefit a cause. In the following example, the word is used in the form of a noun modifier:

<p>The judicial process is meant to be unswayed by political pressure, but amicus briefs have become one of the most powerful of all lobbying tools.</p>	<p>Il processo giudiziario non dovrebbe essere influenzato dalla pressione politica, ma gli amicus brief sono diventati uno degli strumenti di lobbying più potenti.</p>
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In this case I decided to report the pre-modifier as a simple loan word and translate it into Italian as a prepositional phrase ‘strumenti di lobbying’.

It should be noted that within the same sentence there is another loan word, namely the term ‘amicus briefs’, which derives from the Latin locution ‘*amicus curiae*’ and belongs to the legal sphere. The former expression is not widely used today in British legal

parlance, nor it is widely used in the United States for the same purposes. It is a term that has spread in the lexicon of various cultures, although it used for a specific area. In this specific case it implies a written intervention by an external subject authorized to give his opinion and support the figure of the plaintiff, as briefly explained by Monbiot in the article ‘Willing the End’. The term ‘amicus briefs’ may be translated as ‘amici curiae’, but I preferred to keep it in its original version considering that it relates to a very specific area and its meaning would not be of immediate understanding.

Returning to the matter of the term ‘lobby’, in the following example I will present another case on which I focused:

<p>While some oligarchs lobby within the judicial system, others operate to great effect outside it, distorting public perceptions about such rulings through a barrage of propaganda in the media.</p>	<p>Mentre alcuni oligarchi esercitano pressioni all'interno del sistema giudiziario, altri operano con grande efficacia al di fuori di esso, distorcendo la percezione pubblica su tali sentenze tramite una raffica di propaganda nei media.</p>
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As shown by the example, here the term ‘lobby is used as a verb. I thought that a valid translation for this word in Italian could be ‘fare pressione’ given the fact that the main goal of people in lobbies is to reach their purposes and causes and in order to do so they have to exert significant influence.

So, there are cases where it is appropriate to maintain loan words in their original version and others where it is possible to offer an effective correspondence of the term in the target language. Loan words may sometimes lead to some uncertainties and difficulties as for their meaning or understanding, but it is vital for translators to look for an effective version that will prove clear and comprehensible in the context in which they are working.

4.2 Non-equivalence

As Newmark states, the aim of equivalence is “to produce the same effect (or one as close as possible) on the readership of the translation as was obtained on the readership of the original” (1988:48). Sometimes though, equivalence is difficult to achieve because in the TL the term to be translated does not exist or has no direct correspondence; in this case we talk about non-equivalence, which according to Baker (2011) “at word level means that the target language has no direct equivalent for a word which occur in the source text”. This linguistic phenomenon can be divided into several cases: culture-specific concepts, lack of lexicalization and complexity of the source-language.

4.2.1 Culture-specific concepts

Regarding non-equivalence due to a culture-specific concept, I observed two terms in particular: ‘doughnut economics’ and ‘Tory leadership’ from the article ‘Days of Rage’.

As Baker states, when dealing with this kind of translation difficulty “The concept in question may be abstract or concrete; it may relay to a religious belief, a social custom or even a type of food” (2011:18). At first, consulting the corpus looking for the word 'economy' some of the results obtained were:

...riscritto le basi dell'economia rendendola accessibile anche a chi non conosce...
...per la vita: l'economia verde si concentra principalmente...
...monitoraggio dell'economia reale nei territori delle aree protette...
...il benessere dell'economia e dell'ecosistema...

Looking for the term ‘ciambella’ instead, came out these results:

... economia della ciambella offre un punto di vista nuovo...
...il confine interno della ciambella e specifica i bisogni vitali che tutti...
...cerchio esterno della ciambella, i confini delle risorse planetarie...
...confine esterno della ciambella oltre il quale la pressione...
...cerchi concentrici della ciambella rappresentano i limiti sociali e planetari...
...bordo e il centro della ciambella, tra lo spazio socialmente equo e quello...

Therefore, with the help of concordances I figured out that this term pertains to an economic concept, that probably has the aim to promote and favour the wealth of people combined with the respect for the planet and its resources, to guarantee a sustainable living. Moreover, I understood that the term ‘doughnut’ is attributed to the conceptual scheme that describes its fundamentals, such as the social and planetary limits to respect.

Some of us know what we want: private sufficiency; doughnut economics; participatory democracy and an ecological civilisation.	Alcuni di noi sanno cosa vogliamo: sufficienza privata, l’economia della ciambella, democrazia partecipatoria e una civilizzazione ecologica.
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Seeing the context in which the expression ‘doughnut economics’ is used makes me think that this economy is part of a series of ideologies, such as ecological civilization, which have as their goal a call for awareness for the environmental situation and a change in favour of the natural world. In addition, I decided to translate it as ‘economia della ciambella’ given that the original version sounds a little bit difficult as a possible loan in Italian, whereas its translation is more comprehensible and explicit. Furthermore, usually in Italian when referring to ‘ciambella’ what is meant is usually a very different sweet compared to the famous American dessert; in fact the former is the size of a cake, made with less elaborate ingredients and not fried. So even this kind of cultural difference can pose doubts or difficulties in understanding the concept.

Another culture-specific expression on which I focused is ‘Tory leadership’.

Even the candidates for the Tory leadership, ignoring or downplaying the issue, know it.	Anche i candidati alla guida del Partito Conservatore inglese che ignorano o sminuiscono il problema, ne sono a conoscenza.
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For this example too, I considered accuracy and completeness without leaving out any terms. Despite the fact that from the context it is possible to deduce the matter of discussion of the example above, by dint of the words ‘candidates’ and ‘leadership’, the term ‘Tory leadership’ may not sound immediately clear to non-native speakers or to

people unfamiliar with the world of international politics. This term in fact refers to the British Conservative Party, which is colloquially known as ‘Tory’ or ‘Tories’. Therefore being able to understand this term does not only depend on the reader's skills, but also on their own culture and in this case on the political reality that present in one's daily life. So, in order to make this term understandable to readers with various levels of expertise, I decided to translate it as ‘Partito Conservatore inglese’.

So, culture-specific concepts may create perplexities for translators, and therefore it is always relevant to obtain precise information and find simple but functional solutions in order to make concepts understandable and clear to all possible readers.

4.2.2 Lack of lexicalization

As concerns the case of lack of lexicalization, in the article ‘Days of Rage’ there is a particular term that captured my attention, namely ‘tokenism’.

As Baker (2011) states “The source-language word may express a concept which is known in the target culture but simply not lexicalized, that is not ‘allocated’ a target language word to express it”. Scrolling through the concordances of my corpus I found these results:

...diversificata. Tokenism in politica. Un partito politico propone...
...gruppo minoritario. Tokenism nell’industria cinematografica...
...la cosa giusta. Tokenism sul lavoro. In un ufficio...
...rivela essere falso. Tokenism molto diffuso nelle serie tv...

...il termine tokenismo deriva dalla parola inglese \x93token\x94...
...si tratta solo di tokenismo. La vera e propria inclusivit\xE0
...del pubblico. Il tokenismo tocca infatti ogni tipo di gruppo minoritario...

From these examples it is clear that ‘tokenism’ is a term concerning inclusivity and that can cover many areas such as politics, work and television. Also in this case, I presume that this term can be used as a loan word from English given the fact that the Italian

language lacks an original matching term. So, I translated this word as ‘tokenismo’ as follows:

Let’s stop lying to ourselves and others by pretending that small measures deliver major change. Let’s abandon the timidity and tokenism.	Quindi interrompiamo il nostro silenzio. Smettiamo di mentire a noi stessi e agli altri fingendo che le piccole misure emettano un cambiamento maggiore. Abbandoniamo la timidezza e il tokenismo.
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Another case of non-equivalence due to lack of lexicalization regards the term ‘incrementalism’, that I observed in the article ‘Days of Rage’. I was not acquainted with this term, so I made use of my corpus to examine its context and realize its meaning. What emerged was:

L’ <u>incrementalismo</u> aggira questi problemi, producendo politiche...
L’ <u>incrementalismo</u> è l’ideale del processo decisionale razionale...
L’ <u>incrementalismo</u> enfatizza il miglioramento di problemi concreti...
L’ <u>incrementalismo</u> enfatizza la pluralità di attori coinvolti...
<u>Incrementalismo</u> , teoria delle politiche pubbliche...

In this case we are still dealing with a term belonging to the political sphere. Owing to the concordances of the corpus I deduced that the expression ‘incrementalism’ denotes a theory promoting the resolution of political problems through collective collaboration in order to achieve rational goals, and presumably via incremental processes. My translated version of Monbiot’s article is the following:

So the only realistic approach is incrementalism. We will campaign, issue by issue, sector by sector, for gradual improvements.	Quindi l’unico approccio realistico è l’incrementalismo. Promuoveremo, punto dopo punto, settore dopo settore, per dei miglioramenti graduali.
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<p>The problem was never that system change is too big an ask or takes too long. The problem is that incrementalism is too small an ask.</p>	<p>Il problema non è mai stato che il cambio di sistema fosse una richiesta troppo grande o che richiedesse troppo tempo. Il problema è che l'incrementalismo è una richiesta troppo piccola.</p>
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As this word has come into use in the Italian language and in the political context, I decided to translate it as 'incrementalismo'; moreover it is easy to reconnect it to the English concept.

Comparing these two words, I deduced that 'tokenism' is identifiable both as a loan word and as a calque from English. The term 'tokenism' has been adopted in the Italian language for necessity and adapted as 'tokenismo', as there was not another word that could give the same meaning. Instead 'incrementalism' can be identified just as a calque which is according to Taylor "a literal translation of a lexical term" (1998:317); also in this case there was no Italian word that could make this term equivalent, so a new one was introduced from the respective existing English form.

4.2.3 Complex SL words

With regard to complex SL words, I will analyse the expression 'atmospheric rage' and 'private sufficiency' from the article 'Days of rage'.

As Baker (2011) states, this issue can arise "with a target-language item which does not have the same propositional meaning but is likely to have similar impact on the target reader, for instance by evoking a similar context in the target culture", so translators have to think of a simple, but also functional correspondence. As for the term 'atmospheric rage' I think it was somewhat difficult to translate because of the context in which it is used, and furthermore, here I had to understand the sense of the message that the author wanted to give:

<p>These days of atmospheric rage, these heat shocks and wildfires ignore the angry shushing and burst rudely into our silent retreat.</p>	<p>Questi giorni di clima impazzito, questi shock termici e incendi ignorano il tacere furioso e irrompono bruscamente nel nostro ritiro silenzioso.</p>
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I could figure out that here the author was discussing worrying and abnormal weather phenomena such as severe temperature changes and wildfires, but the expression itself was not immediately easy to interpret. Considering that the word 'atmospheric' probably refers to the conditions of the Earth's atmosphere and in particular of the layers closest to us such as the troposphere, so of the air we breathe, I deduced that the term 'rage' could be due to the fact that nowadays the temperatures no longer fall within the seasonal canons; as it is often too hot for the present month, nature is affected by changing its rhythms, and consequently all ecosystems, including ours, suffer trauma. Therefore, I wanted to translate with the expression 'clima impazzito' precisely because everything alluded to this set of problems.

Concerning the expression 'private sufficiency', I had to inform myself from a Ted talk held by Monbiot himself, given the fact that I could not work out its meaning and context because of its complexity; in fact as Baker suggests "a single word which consists of a single morpheme can sometimes express a more complex set of meanings than a whole sentence" (2011:19). Just by the title of the lecture I could clear my mind: "To achieve a sustainable balance of private sufficiency and public luxury, land is the key"; here I understood that Monbiot wanted to make a comparison between the huge amount of private land intended for private use, and the need to grant space to those who do not own it directly. As I continued reading the article, I found the following relevant sections: "Everybody wants a good life, we all want to share in the natural wealth of the planet, we want to share in prosperity, we want to live decently [...] But how can we possibly attain all that if there isn't enough space? Well, there is. There's not enough space for a private luxury, but there is enough space for everyone to enjoy public luxury".

Moreover, the author said that "This is a zero-sum game. Land stopped being made long ago, so if we take more land than is our due, we are excluding other people from that natural wealth. But if we use urban land wisely, and if we ensure that we concentrate primarily on public amenities [...] then we can have public luxury for all. My catchphrase has become 'private sufficiency, public luxury'". So, after this analysis I could understand that by 'private sufficiency' the author means that set of land or private assets which are

proportionate to the rest of the assets and which therefore do not harm the well-being and needs of the community, becoming almost a “public luxury”.

Therefore, in my version I translated this expression as ‘sufficienza privata’ after having understood the context thus solving my doubts as the following example shows:

Some of us know what we want: private sufficiency; doughnut economics; participatory democracy and an ecological civilisation.	Alcuni di noi sanno cosa vogliamo: sufficienza privata, l’economia della ciambella, democrazia partecipatoria e una civilizzazione ecologica.
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So, sometimes translators may have perplexities due to some complex source language words, and hence it is fundamental to analyse its context and conduct research in order to translate correctly and report valid information.

4.3 Revision

As in the second chapter of this dissertation I introduced many notions concerning the possible errors the translator may commit when editing and revising, I will now present some parts of my translations to which I had to pay particular attention.

4.3.1 Accuracy and completeness

A first precaution which is indispensable for the revision of any text is accuracy, which according to Mossop (2001) is “the most important feature of a translation”, in particular “The first task of a professional translator of non-literary texts is to guarantee that the translation means what the source means”. I will show some examples of my translations where I tried to do an accurate job but at the same time make the text understandable even for non-expert readers.

Another important required factor to be sure that the TT will be optimal is completeness, so there must be no lack of basic information or gaps that make the text appear incomplete

or meaningless. Below I will show some examples of accuracy and completeness from my translations.

<p>It cannot now be long, unless immediate and comprehensive measures are taken, before these days of rage become the norm even in our once-temperate climatic zone.</p>	<p>Non ci vorrà molto, a meno che non vengano prese misure immediate e globali, prima che questi giorni di caldo torrido diventino la norma anche nella nostra zona climatica un tempo temperata.</p>
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In this first case, I attempted to translate and revise accurately without omitting any component of the sentence. I undertook a non-literary translation for the expression ‘days of rage’ because, observing the context where there was a discussion about the worrying increase in temperatures, I thought that ‘giorni di caldo torrido’ conveyed the idea equally well and was more appropriate. Moreover, I paid attention to translate the last sentence in the form of a correct and clear Italian version with the noun phrase ‘zona climatica un tempo temperata’ moving the English pre-modifier ‘once-temperate’ to the end of the Italian sentence.

Another case of accuracy is the following:

<p>They need, for example, giant trees, whose knotty entrails are split and rotten; great reefs of coral or oysters or honeycomb worms; braiding, meandering rivers full of snags and beaver dams; undisturbed soils reamed by roots and holes.</p>	<p>Necessitano, per esempio, di alberi giganti, le cui viscere nodose sono spaccate e marce; grandi scogliere di coralli o ostriche o vermi nido d’ape; fiumi intrecciati e tortuosi pieni di ostacoli e dighe di castori, terreni indisturbati alesati da radici e buchi.</p>
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Also in this case, there are plenty of specific terms including adjectives and nouns that require particular attention. In particular I focused on the noun modifier ‘honeycomb’ referring to the word ‘worms’; at first I was not familiar with that term, so I conducted research. Given the fact that Monbiot named very specific animals in his articles, it was

quite easy to misunderstand terminology or be confused, so research was essential. Finally, I deduced that the scientific term for ‘honeycomb worm’ was ‘sabellaria alveolata’, but considering that translating the term that way might make it unclear, I thought the simpler version ‘vermi nido d’ape’ would provide more understanding.

So, in order to have an accurate and precise translation, terminology, accuracy and completeness must be fully considered so as not to leave anything to chance or in doubt.

4.3.2 Smoothness

For an exhaustive revising procedure, the aspect of smoothness (or cohesion) is fundamental to follow. According to Taylor (1998) cohesion is “the way linguistic elements connect the various part of a text”. A first example is the following:

<p>We have seen nothing yet. The dangerous heat England is suffering at the moment is already becoming normal in southern Europe, and would be counted among the cooler days during hot periods in parts of the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, where heat is becoming a regular threat to life.</p>	<p>Non abbiamo visto ancora nulla. Il preoccupante caldo di cui l’Inghilterra sta soffrendo è già diventato la normalità nell’Europa Meridionale, e rientrerebbe tra giorni più freddi dei periodi caldi di alcune parti del Medio Oriente, Africa e Asia Meridionale, dove il caldo sta diventando una minaccia costante per la vita.</p>
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Considering that “The requirement of coherence [...] is that a text should hang together conceptually: [...] it should make sense and not consist of a jumble of sentences” (Ulrych 1992), for the case above, I attempted to make a linear and clear translation seeing as some phrases might result confusing because of lack of punctuation or some apparent ambiguity. In the example above, for instance, there is a passage that I needed to read various times decide how to translate it properly, “among the cooler days during hot periods”. After analysing the context and realizing that the subject concerned the constant change of temperatures, I understood how to translate that unusual passage; specifically as ‘tra i giorni più freddi dei periodi caldi’.

Therefore, in order to have a cohesive translation it is necessary to stop and think about the meaning of the sentences and to contextualize them in the right way, without omitting any useful information.

4.3.3 Sub-language

I also paid attention to sub-language, that is the “Subset of the lexical, syntactic and rhetorical resources of a language which are typically used in a given genre and field” (Mossop 2001). Although certain terms are commonly used among experts in a certain sector or found in specific journals, by finding them in the articles I tried to translate them precisely, without altering the meaning. For example:

<p>Self-serving nonsense cooked up by governments and their advisers, such as “natural capital accounting” and “biodiversity net gain” treat one habitat or feature as exchangeable for another.</p>	<p>Le sciocchezze egoistiche inventate e dai governi e dai loro consiglieri, come la “contabilità del capitale naturale” e il “guadagno netto di biodiversità” trattano un habitat o una caratteristica come se fossero sostituibili.</p>
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In the example above we can see two expressions from the sphere of economics and politics ‘natural capital accounting’ and ‘biodiversity net gain’, which refer to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development policies. In the example below instead, there is the expression ‘salvage logging’, which indicates the deforestation of green areas due to damage such as fires, insect infestations or other natural disasters. Profit and economic motives are often hidden behind these deforestations, often disguised as pretexts favourable to the renewal of forests and the elimination of parasites.

<p>“Salvage logging” – removing dead or dying trees – is one of the most damaging human activities.</p>	<p>Il “diboscamento di recupero”, la rimozione di alberi morti o morenti, è una delle attività umane più dannose.</p>
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To translate any type of specific text, it is not enough to rely on automatic translators as one might think, but a great deal of in-depth study and analysis of the subject is needed

even before venturing into the enterprise. I myself had to read up great deal and conduct research to fully understand the scope of the discussions I faced. I had more difficulty with certain unknown words in the scientific, economic and political fields but it was still a job that I gladly did to thus deepen my knowledge in this subject that interests me so much.

To conclude, in this last chapter I have analysed various examples of the typical challenges that a translator can face in order to carry out a translation in specific areas, including terminology, equivalence, culture and specific language; and it was seen that technical knowledge, thinking skills and attention to detail are essential to obtain a good result.

Conclusion

In this dissertation various points have been touched upon in the field of sustainability, both social, economic and environmental, all combined with the techniques of specialized translation and the key notions that a competent translator must acquire. It was possible to disseminate information and knowledge about specific contexts of the environmental situation, helping a wide range of readers, both experts and non-experts, to know and learn relevant facts and notions.

In particular, by focusing on the translation and analysis of terms and concepts peculiar to the fields of politics, economics and biology, I was able to contextualize the hot topics we were talking about, favouring their understanding and reflection. It has been demonstrated that the disclosure and spread of knowledge and facts about specific topics can take place under various forms and means of communication, and translation is one of them. Sustainability education has no limits and any means of disseminating it is useful to make people aware that climate change, the risks looming over biodiversity and lives of people are not just theories or possibilities, but real and current facts.

As I proceeded with the drafting of this dissertation, I realized that through specialized translation it is possible to learn and deepen many different notions and concepts regarding important areas and discover things that previously were difficult to contextualize or take into consideration. The main difficulties I had in translating regarded the understanding of specific terms that required more in-depth study, and the learning of legal or environmental concepts that were part of rather complex topics, in particular concerning international political issues. However, I found this last part of my training very interesting and useful for my personal knowledge and to deepen my cultural background.

I hope that my work may help to provide a valid guide with solid information for those wishing to focus on specialized translation and that the theme of sustainability will become ever more present as a constant in the education and daily life of future generations.

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Summary in Italian

Oggi giorno sono noti i problemi legati ai cambiamenti climatici e al continuo sfruttamento delle risorse della Terra; tuttavia, ciò che si continua a sbagliare non consiste tanto nei comportamenti dei singoli cittadini, ma nel funzionamento del sistema. Benché vivere rispettando l'ambiente optando per soluzioni sostenibili come mangiare meno carne, riciclare correttamente ed usare di più i mezzi pubblici siano comportamenti importanti che in larga scala potrebbero fare la differenza; ciò che può fare il singolo non sarà mai così efficiente e d'impatto come un cambiamento derivante dai governi. Far percepire il bisogno di rivoluzionare il sistema, diffondere la conoscenza sulla realtà dei fatti e di come poterla migliorare è importante per aumentare il senso di consapevolezza e responsabilità nelle comunità e nella loro cultura.

Il fine di questa mia tesi di laurea, infatti, è discutere di queste tematiche unendo il mio interesse per le tecniche di traduzione, al fine di combinare le due cose e fornire informazioni utili per degli spunti di riflessione. Esistono vari approcci per educare alla sostenibilità, sia essa ambientale, sociale o economica; e la traduzione è uno di questi, in quanto sia chi traduce un testo specifico sia chi ne riceve le informazioni possa acquisire nozioni nuove ed istruttive arricchendo così le proprie conoscenze per uno stile di vita favorevole verso sé stessi ed il pianeta. Dunque, esporrò come può avvenire il processo di traduzione focalizzato sul tema citato poc' anzi, illustrando le tecniche salienti e i fattori ai quali un buon traduttore consapevole deve prestare attenzione. In particolare, analizzerò quattro articoli divulgativi scritti dallo scrittore e giornalista inglese George Monbiot; i quali trattano di temi come il necessario cambio del sistema per fermare l'aumento delle temperature, la scarsa efficienza dei governi nel tentativo di introdurre politiche in favore del clima, la necessità di ridurre l'attività economica per non privare ulteriormente habitat e risorse agli ecosistemi, e proteggere le specie a rischio promuovendo un movimento di slow ecology.

Nel primo capitolo del mio elaborato ho presentato inizialmente alcune nozioni riguardanti l'educazione alla sostenibilità, spiegando come in alcuni sistemi scolastici sia già presente. Essa viene introdotta nelle classi tramite metodi educativi alternativi, come

i giochi di ruolo, la scrittura di riflessione e il dibattito, al fine di renderla un'attività piacevole e divertente. Ho inoltre spiegato che fornire e introdurre l'educazione alla sostenibilità sin dai primi anni di scuola tramite varie attività formative sia un ottimo punto di partenza per renderla presente nell'immaginario comune, garantendo così basi solide per delle generazioni future informate e consapevoli.

Successivamente, ho introdotto una prima parte teorica circa alcune delle sfide principali che i traduttori specializzati devono affrontare per eseguire un lavoro preciso ed accurato. Alcune peculiarità della traduzione specializzata verso le quali è necessario porre attenzione sono l'equivalenza, ovvero l'abilità di trasferire i contenuti del testo di partenza a quello d'arrivo in modo esaustivo e comprensibile; e la terminologia, che in questi casi necessita di uno studio approfondito e di precisione al fine di non riportare informazioni sbagliate o causare incomprensioni. I problemi legati all'equivalenza, in particolare, possono riguardare concetti culturali specifici, la mancanza di lessicalizzazione di un certo termine nella lingua di destinazione, parole complesse o prestiti linguistici che possono non essere di immediata comprensione e dunque richiedono maggior impegno. Per quanto riguarda la terminologia invece, in questi casi i traduttori devono combinare le funzioni rappresentative e comunicative della stessa; ovvero devono rappresentare i concetti utilizzando un lessico caratteristico relativo all'ambito di cui si sta trattando, e trasmettere il messaggio con chiarezza nella comunicazione diretta (tra esperti) e indiretta. Strumenti utili per un'accurata ricerca e scelta terminologica sono i corpora linguistici. Un corpus è un ampio corpo di materiale testuale memorizzato su computer, dal quale è possibile estrarre la frequenza d'uso o l'intervallo di collocazione di un termine per capirne il contesto e l'utilizzo. Grazie a questi strumenti, che forniscono risorse aggiuntive, approfondimenti e informazioni utili, i traduttori possono rendere il proprio lavoro più specifico e preciso.

Nel secondo capitolo teorico ho esposto ulteriori nozioni circa le conoscenze che dei traduttori competenti devono possedere per non commettere errori. In particolare, mi sono soffermata sui processi di correzione e revisione, eventualmente necessari al fine di evitare di commettere o tralasciare vari tipi di imprecisioni nel testo di cui ci si sta occupando. La correzione prevede che venga effettuato un controllo delle possibili

mancanze di uno scritto e siano apportate le opportune modifiche, con particolare attenzione a renderlo adatto per i lettori e gli usi a cui è destinato. Ci sono varie tecniche di correzione dei testi; una abilità particolare che alcuni traduttori posseggono è la cosiddetta “correzione mentale”, che consiste nel correggere o migliorare la qualità del lavoro mentre si sta traducendo per rendere il risultato più accessibile e comprensibile. In questo modo, inoltre, si possono evitare errori come la ridondanza, l’incoerenza e si risparmia tempo.

Alcuni degli errori più comuni che si possono commettere e a cui bisogna porre attenzione sono quelli fattuali, logici o matematici. Si parla di errori riguardanti i fatti quando nel testo di partenza compaiono fraintendimenti o imprecisioni, ad esempio, una data errata riferita a un fatto storico; oppure indirizzi stradali incoerenti, indirizzi di siti web errati ed anche citazioni. Per quanto riguarda invece gli errori logici, essi consistono nel riportare fatti e informazioni che ad una prima lettura appaiono irrazionali e vaghi. Questa categoria di errore include contraddizioni, tautologie, sequenze temporali impossibili e confusioni di causa ed effetto. Gli errori matematici invece, come suggerisce l'espressione stessa, hanno a che fare con i numeri, in particolare con date, cifre, misure, percentuali e proporzioni tra diverse unità di misura.

Al fine di effettuare una revisione eccellente e precisa, i traduttori sono abituati a seguire alcune linee guida che li aiuteranno a raggiungere il loro obiettivo. Le strategie possono essere classificate in base all'entità del problema, cioè se si tratta di trasferimento, contenuto, linguaggio o stile e infine presentazione fisica. I due principali parametri a cui i revisori devono prestare attenzione sono l'accuratezza e la completezza. L'accuratezza è una caratteristica imprescindibile per una traduzione, allo scopo di garantire che la traduzione riporti esattamente i concetti presenti nel testo di partenza. Inoltre, il livello di accuratezza deve essere proporzionato allo scopo della traduzione e ai lettori a cui è indirizzata. Per quanto riguarda la completezza, si riferisce alla quantità di informazioni e contenuti riportati da traduttori e revisori dal testo di partenza a quello di arrivo. Questa strategia non si realizza in un unico modo, ma dipende dal tipo di testo e dall'argomento che si deve trattare.

Dopo aver tradotto gli articoli scritti originariamente da Monbiot, infine, mi sono occupata di analizzare alcuni punti critici delle mie traduzioni sui quali ho dovuto soffermarmi maggiormente; e ricollegandomi alla teoria argomentata precedentemente, ho illustrato le mie analisi e ragionamenti spiegando e giustificando le soluzioni apportate. Le perplessità maggiori che ho riscontrato nella traduzione riguardavano la terminologia, in particolare di termini legati al contesto scientifico, politico ed economico; l'equivalenza, e nel dettaglio i concetti specifici della cultura, la mancanza di lessicalizzazione, parole complesse appartenenti alla lingua di partenza, accuratezza, completezza e fluidità. Per ogni punto di riflessione ho allegato la relativa traduzione con testo a fronte ed esposto i miei ragionamenti in merito alla soluzione migliore da effettuare. Ho inoltre fatto grande uso di un corpus di testi organizzato dalla sottoscritta per avere dei riferimenti validi ed utili su cui fare riferimento.

Procedendo con la stesura di questa tesi, mi sono resa conto che attraverso la traduzione specialistica è possibile apprendere e approfondire molte nozioni e concetti diversi riguardanti ambiti importanti e scoprire cose che prima erano difficili da contestualizzare o prendere in considerazione. Mi auguro che il mio lavoro possa contribuire a fornire una valida guida con solide informazioni per chi voglia focalizzarsi sulla traduzione di settori specifici, e che il tema della sostenibilità diventi sempre più presente come una costante nella formazione e nella vita quotidiana delle generazioni future.

