Università di Firenze Dipartimento di Formazione, Lingue, Intercultura, Letterature e Psicologia

Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

**Translation Error Analysis**

**Punctuation of titles**:

Never use quotation marks ***and*** italics.

**Italics** are used for titles of novels, books, collections of poetry or short stories, names of magazines and newspapers. If you are writing by hand, the italics are substituted by **underlining** the title.

**Quotation marks** are used for titles of short stories, poems, articles, essays, chapters in a novel/book.

Never use a **comma** as a conjunction to connect 2 complete sentences (a “run-on sentence”).

The***condizionale passato***in Italian is used to express:

1. The future in the past (2nd conditional in English);
2. An unreal impossible hypothesis which did not take place in the past (3rd conditional in English).

In general do not over-translate or translate too freely.

If the SL text is ambiguous, don’t adopt one of various possible interpretations if it’s possible to leave similar ambiguity in the TL text.

Study the use of the verbs ***to take, to bring, to get, to fetch, to carry.***

Study the verbs ***to lie/lay/lain*** (intransitive) and ***to lay/laid/laid*** (transitive).

Study the verbs***to remind someone (of something), to remember/recall/recollect something****.*

Study the use of ***to say something (to someone)*** and ***to tell someone (something)***.

Remember ***essere*** & ***stare*** are usually translated with ***to be****,* not ***to stay*** (= ***to remain****,* ***rimanere****)* or ***to stand***(usually = ***stare in piedi****).*

Does ***anche*** indicate ***also*** or ***even*** (***perfino***)?

Does ***comunque*** indicate *however* or *in any case?*

Does ***vari/varie*** indicate ***several/some*** or ***various/different****?*

Do ***allora*** & ***quindi*** have a meaning indicating consequence *(****so/therefore****)* or a temporal reference (***then***)?

Be aware if verbs in the SL and TL texts are **transitive** or **intransitive**. The former can be used in the **passive form**, the latter cannot. For example:

***Arrivati*** *in orario, siamo saliti sul treno. (Having arrived/Arriving on time, we got on the train.)*

***Pubblicati*** *all’estero, i libri erano molto costosi. (Published abroad, the books were very expensive.)*

*I libri* ***arrivati*** *ieri sono sul tavolo. (The books which/that arrived yesterday are on the table.)*

*I libri* ***pubblicat****i ieri sono sul tavolo. (The books (which/that were) published yesterday are on the table.)*

If you are unfamiliar with a word you find in a **bilingual dictionary**, especially **cognates**, always check the word in a **monolingual dictionary** which also indicates the usage of the word.