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

Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

from *Una storia semplice*  *(A Simple Story)* (pub. title in English *A Straightforward Tale)* (1989) by Leonardo Sciascia (1921-1989)

(…)

 Immediately//At first sight/glance(,) the impression was

 The immediate/very first impression was that the man (had) committed suicide/killed himself.

 Immediate was the impression

The pistol/gun was on the ground/floor, to/on the right/right-hand side of the armchair (in) which/where he had remained seated/was still sitting//seated (in): (. It was) an old ’15-18 war weapon, German,

 an old German gun from the ’15-18 war,

one of those souvenirs/keepsakes (which/that) veterans/returning soldiers took/brought (back) home

 would take

 wiped out/nullified

with them. But there was one (particular) detail which cancelled (out)/erased/dispelled the immediate

 particular that induced/led the brigadier to rule out his immediate

 made the brigadier exclude

impression of suicide in/from the brigadier(’s mind). The deadman’s right hand, which should/ought to

have been dangling/hanging (right/just/directly) over/above//in line/plumb with the fallen pistol, was

 (dangled/hung)

(resting)/lay/rested instead on (the) (top of) the desk/the desktop, holding down/on top of/resting on a

piece/sheet of paper which/that read/reading/on which one/you could read/on which was written/with

the words:/, “I’ve found.” That period/full stop (put) after the word “found” lit up like a flash in

 revealing

the brigadier’s mind, and there unfolded, rapid and fleeting, the scene of a murder/homicide

 and the scene, fast and elusive, unfolded of

 and he imagined the scene, swift/quick and

 and caused to unfold the scene

 and a murder scene unfolded

the mind of the brigadier, revealing/unfolding the scene

behind that, not very carefully constructed/created/set up/put together/staged/laid out, of (a/the)

behind the not very accurately

suicide. The man had begun/started to write/writing “I’ve found,” just as at the police station/

headquarters he (had) said/told them that he (had) found something at his house/at home (which/

that) he had not expected to find. And he was about to write/on the point of writing (about) what he

had found, by then doubting/doubting at that point (that/whether) the police would/were going to

arrive, and perhaps/maybe beginning/starting, in (the) solitude and silence,/in (his) solitude, in (the)

silence, to be afraid/frightened. But someone (had) knocked at/on the/his door. “The police,” he

thought, and instead it was the murderer/killer. Perhaps he said (that) he was a policeman/he intro-

duced himself/presented himself/identified himself as a police officer, and the man let him (come) in,

 to sit back down

went back to sit at his/the desk, and began/started to recount/tell about/say what he had found.

Perhaps the pistol/gun was (perhaps) on the desk (perhaps). In the fear (which/that was) growing

The pistol might/may have been on the desk.

inside (of) him,/In his growing/mounting fear, he had probably gone to take it out of/get it from

some hiding place/cupboard/cupboard/storeroom (which/that) he remembered. (…) Seeing it on the

 where he remembered it was.

desk, (perhaps) the murderer (had) perhaps asked (for (some) information) about the weapon,

checked if/that it worked/was (still) working/was still in working condition, and suddenly

pointed/aimed it at/held it to the other man’s head and fired/shot. (…)

(…)