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

Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

from *Il signore delle mosche ((The) Lord of (the) Flies)*

(1954; translation by Filippo Donini, 1966) by William Golding (1911-1993)

(...)

 The officer smiled/grinned(1) cheerfully/cheerily/(happily) at Ralph, “We saw/noticed your

smoke. What have you been doing? (Having) A kind/sort of war?/Some sort of war?/A war or some-

thing?”

 Ralph nodded.

 scrutinized looked up and down (*not* bugbear/bogey/bogeyman)

 The officer/official examined/looked closely at/inspected the little scarecrow (standing) in front

 who/that was

of him. That boy/kid needed (to take) a bath/wash, a haircut/to get his hair/a cut, his nose wiped/

cleaned?/a nose-wipe/to clean his nose? and a good deal/bit//a whole lot of/lots of/loads of ointment.

 “You haven’t killed/didn’t kill anyone/anybody, I hope. Are there any dead/Is (there) anybody/

 casualties?

anyone dead?”

 “Just/Only two. And the sea took/swept/carried them away.” (…)

 The officer turned to/toward(s) Ralph (once) again/once more/back to Ralph. “We’ll take you

away/We’ll bring/take you with us. How many of you are there?”

 Ralph shook his head. The officer looked at the group of painted boys behind him/past him

at/to the group of painted boys. (…)

 “We saw your smoke. And you don’t know/(don’t you know) how many of you there are?”

 “No, sir.”

 “I would/should(BrE dated?) have thought,” said the officer, foreseeing/imagining/anticipating the

search(es) that he was going to have to/would have to conduct/undertake/carry out/do/make,

 awaited him/(it) would be necessary to do,

“I would/should have thought (that) a group English boys… You’re all English, aren’t you/right?…

would have been capable of something better… I mean (to say)…”

 able to do (something) better (than this)…

 “It was so/like that at the start/at first,” said Ralph, “before…” (…)

 “That’s how it was in the beginning/at first/at the start,” Ralph said, “before…” (…)

 Ralph looked at him without speaking. For an instant/moment he had a fleeting vision/caught

 speechless//without saying a word/anything//saying nothing.

a glimpse of the strange aura/air of adventure which/that (had) once shone on the island. But the island

 (*not aureola* = halo) atmosphere pervaded/enwrapped

 Tears came gushing out/began to flow

was burning like dry wood, Simone/(Simon?) was dead, and Jack had… He burst into tears/out crying

 Tears sprang to his eyes

and sobs shook him.

and he was shaken/(w)racked by sobs. For the first time since he was/had been on the island,

he abandoned himself to/gave himself up to tears, to a great pang of/great spasms of grief

 to an agonising sorrow/pain

that wrenched his whole/entire body.

which shook him completely/all over. His sobs/crying resonated/resounded/echoed/reverberated

under/below the black smoke, in front of/(before?) the fire (which/that was) destroying the island,

and overcome/overwhelmed/gripped/moved/taken by/with/caught up in the same emotion/pathos(,)

the other children also started/began to sob/sobbing/crying (as well). There among/Amongst

them/In their midst, his body dirty, his hair (falling down) over/covering his eyes/forehead and his

nose in need of a wipe/his nose needing to be wiped/unwiped nose, Ralph wept/cried for the end of

innocence, the hardness/harshness of the human heart, and the fall into the void/into emptiness

/through the air of his true friend, the/his wise friend called Piggy.

 In front of/Before/Faced with that scene, the officer was overcome/overwhelmed by emotion/

moved and a little/bit embarrassed. He turned the other way/away/aside, to give the boys (the/

some) time to pull themselves together//collect/compose/recompose themselves//recover, and he

waited, turning his eyes to/setting his gaze on/fixing his eyes on/resting his eyes on/with his eyes on

the fine, far-off/faraway/far-away/distant cruiser//the beautiful/(trim) cruiser (off) in the distance.

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1) to grin - to smile broadly, especially as an indication of pleasure, amusement, or the like. Often ambiguous. *sghignazzare, deridere, sogghignare, ghignare*