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

Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

from “I sette messaggeri” (“The Seven Messengers”) (1942) by Dino Buzzati

 day by/after day

I have left to explore my father’s kingdom, and with each day that passes, I get/I have gone

Having left to explore the kingdom of my father, with each passing day, I am going

 set out/gone off to realm every day, I am getting

 I have been receiving has become…

farther/further away from the city and the news that reaches me becomes ever more infrequent. which comes to me is more and more sporadic.

 I receive/get is increasingly less frequent.

 started little more than thirty years old,

 I began my/the journey when I was barely/hardly/scarcely thirty and more than eight years

 I embarked on just over thirty over eight years

 gone be, to be exact/precise, continuous

have passed, exactly eight years, six months and fifteen days of uninterrupted traveling/travel.

 (BrE frontier)

I believed, at my departure, that in a few weeks I would easily reach the border(s?) of the kingdom.

When I left/At my start I thought confines

Instead I have continued to encounter/meet (ever/always) new people(s) and towns (all the time),

 countries/places/regions

 that

and everywhere men/people who spoke my own language, who said (that) they are/were my subjects.

 speaking

 I sometimes think that my geographer’s compass has gone crazy and that, believing (that)

 At times I think that the compass of my geographer mad/wild/haywire

we are still/always proceeding/heading (towards the) south/ southward, in reality/actually we have

 going we may/might have

perhaps been circling back/around and retracing our own footsteps, separating

maybe been going (around) in circles, without ever increasing the distance which/that separates

 describing circles,

 we have yet to reach

us from the capital. This could/might explain the reason why we have not yet reached

the distant/utmost/ultimate/farthest/furthest/outermost/furthermost border/frontier.

 But what more frequently torments me is the doubt that this border may/might not exist

 But more often I am tormented by/with the doubt that this frontier does not exist,

 racked/wracked by the doubt that

 the doubt torments me that

 spreads out limitlessly with no

that the kingdom extends (out)/expands (outwards)/stretches out without any limit whatsoever

 limitation at all

 as much as I travel/advance,

and that, no matter how far I go, never will I be able to reach the end.

 as far as I proceed, I will never manage to arrive at the end.

 however much I go forward/on/ahead,

 I started my journey when I was already over thirty, too late perhaps. My friends,

 set out/off on more than/past

 made fun of

my (very) relatives themselves, derided/scoffed at/sneered at my project as a useless waste of the

(even) my (own) family (members), laughed at/mocked my plan worthless

Best years of my life. In reality/Actually/In truth, few of my faithful/loyal retainers agreed to leave.

 only a few of those loyal/faithful to me/my loyal subjects

 Although carefree - far/much more than I am now! – I made sure that I would be able to

 Even though light-hearted, I ensured

 I worried about being able to

 I was concerned about being able to

communicate, during the journey, with my loved/dear ones, and from/among the knights/horsemen

 and so I chose from the cavalrymen

of the/my guard/my escort? I chose/selected the seven best to serve (me) as my messengers.

(…)