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

Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

“Quando gli immigrati italiani erano considerati africani che dovevano essere buttati in mare”

(“When (the) Italian Immigrants were Considered Africans (who/that had/were) to Be Thrown into

the Sea”) by Matteo Lenardon, 18 October 2017.

in the online magazine [thevision.com](http://thevision.com)<https://thevision.com/attualita/immigrati-italiani-africani/>

(current events)

(...) In the United States, from the end of the 1800s/the late 1800’s/the late 19th century until/till/to

the period following/after the end/conclusion of World War II/the Second World War, (the) Italians

were simply not “white.” Today we laugh about this/it//that makes us laugh in Italy, but our

grandparents personally experienced it/this (personally)//had firsthand(NAmE)/first-hand(BrE)

experience of this/it//experienced it at their own expense.//but it was a personal experience for our

grandparents. An article in *The New York Sun* in 1899 describes/ed Italians as “the link/connection

A *New York Sun* article from 1899/An 1899 *New York Sun* article

between the white and black race(s). Dark-skinned, (the) Sicilians are blacker than our mulatto ‘Negroes.’” the white race and the black one. With their dark skin/complexion?

And being/to be (a) “Negro”/“Negroes” in the South of the U.S./U.S.A., in/during those years, meant

persecution. As happened/was the case in Alabama, a state in which/where in 1922 interracial

/inter-racial marriages/(unions?) were still banned/prohibited/forbidden/ by law. For this reason(,) the

Italian Edith Labue and the Afro-American Jim Rollins ended up on trial charged with/accused of/on

were brought to/put on trial

charges of “race/racial mixing.” After (the) conviction/condemnation with/of the first-degree sentence,

the first-degree conviction/sentence of first instance,

Rollins appealed/filed an appeal, trying/seeking/attempting to convince the judge that the young

woman/girl was not white(,) “but Italian.” The argument was accepted/upheld/sustained? and the

sentence/ruling/judgement ruled/stated/declared (that) the prosecutor/prosecuting attorney “had not

been able/failed to provide/furnish (the) proof/(the) definitive evidence that the female in question, Edith

And seeing as she

Labue was white.” And since she was an immigrant of Sicilian origin(s), “it was absolutely impossible

And given/seeing/considering that she “there was absolutely no way

to conclude/establish/deduce therefore/for this reason (that) she was white, or that she herself

was (a) “Negro” or the/a descendent of a “Negro”.

or descended/descending from

Understanding/To understand all (of) this is essential (in order) to grasp/capture the experience

Being aware of/conscious of/Realizing all of this is fundamental to comprehend/understand

(everything?) with no consequences.

of those Italians. Because/Since when you are not white, anything can happen to you without any

repercussions. You can be considered/classified/labeled (as)/seen as an invader who/that must

/has to be forcibly stopped/stopped by/with force, and your body and your (hard?)/labor/toil

/exertion? used to endure/put up with/bear/suffer? humiliating and degrading/wretched/deplorable

/terrible/horrible/horrendous, atrocious work/jobs, work/jobs which/that someone who/that is not a

“Negro” would never do. Thanks to films, songs and books we know the story of Sacco and Vanzetti,

the two Italian anarchists sentenced to//who/that were given the electric chair, but the Italians in

America experienced/underwent/suffered/endured/went through worse fates/destinies.

(…)