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

Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

from *Memorie di un soldato bambino* (2007) *(Memoirs/Reminiscences?/Memories? of a Child/Boy Soldier)* by Ishmael Beah (translation by Luca Fusari; original title *A Long Way Gone. Memoirs of a Boy Soldier, 2007*).

(…) “This is a very important story.” Then he cleared his throat and began:

 on a monkey hunt.

 “Once upon a time there was a hunter who/that went into/to the forest to hunt monkeys. After

 “There was once a hunter hunting monkeys.

 suddenly one appeared/one of them appeared

a few/some minutes, there was one/he saw one, sitting/seated comfortably on the lower branches of

 (there) one appeared/there appeared one (of them)

a tree, who did not pay him any attention, not even when he/it heard the sound of (his) footsteps on

 which paid him no attention/no attention to him, (in)

the dry leaves. When he was rather/quite close/near and hidden behind a tree from which/where he

 close/near enough

 rifle/(shotgun?)

could see/saw him/it clearly, the hunter raised/lifted his gun and aimed/took aim (at him/it). But when

he was about to pull the trigger, the monkey spoke: ‘If you shoot me, your mother will die, and if

 on the verge of pulling the trigger,

 to die will be your father.” he/it went back to peacefully eating

you don’t do it/so, it will be your father who dies.” Then he/it calmly started/began/went back to

 your father will die/will be the one who dies/to die.”

eating (again), (occasionally) scratching his head or his stomach/belly (from time to time).

 “What would you (all) do, if you were the hunter?”

 were you/if you were in the hunter’s shoes/place?”

 youngsters

 The youth/young people of my village and I would hear/heard this story once a year. Usually(,)

 from

an elder would recount/told it, who posed this irresolvable/unsolvable question in the presence of our

it was told by an elder*(not* old man), who dilemma/query in front of

parents. We had/were supposed to answer (it), but no one/nobody was able to/could/managed to (do

it/so), out of the fear of offending/to offend their father or their mother. The narrator never suggested

 for (the) fear

 reflect on/over it,

the solution. When it was my turn, I would say/said that I would think about it/it over, but obviously it

was not an acceptable answer.

 Then/Later my companions/mates (BE) and I – all children between six and twelve (years old) –

would discuss/discussed what the answer was that would prevent/avoid the death of one of our parents.

 (would have prevented)

But the right/correct answer did not exist. If you saved/were saved the monkey, someone would die.

If you killed him/it, someone would die all the same/anyway/in any case/nonetheless.

 (would have died?)

(…)

 At seven years old, in my opinion\* was

 At the age of seven, I had found an answer which/that (to me) seemed (to me) to be very

reasonable, but/however I had never spoken about/of it with anyone/anybody,

afraid of hurting/to hurt Had I been

out of/for (the) fear of hurting my mother. If I had been the hunter/in the hunter’s shoes/place,

because I feared (that) it would have hurt

 to spare others from

I had thought, I would have certainly fired/shot to prevent others (from) having to find themselves

 to avoid others having to

in the same situation (as me)/in my same situation.

\* *Not* “according to me” - *According to* means ‘as reported by’ or ‘as stated by’ and refers to an opinion which is not the speaker’s opinion.