



IT212 TRANSLATION

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TODAY'S class

- Practicalities
- I return your assessed HOMEWORK
- Translation and Reading Comprehension **in-class corrections**

NEXT Office Hours

- **WEEK 9: Thursday 10 March, 11-13**
- WEEK 10: Tuesday 15 March, 1.30-3.30

HOMEWORK for week 9

- You can find online a new translation for practice before the test
- You can submit it in week 9, to have it marked for week 10
- In week 10, Wednesday 16 March, we will correct it in class

TEST

- Dictionaries are allowed
- Translation of an historical text in Italian. Length: about one page
- **DURING THE GRAMMAR HOURS on Tuesday 8 March 2016**

- **Suggested revision:**
- Vocabulary explored in both Term 1 and Term 2
- **Grammar topics consolidated in Term 1. As far as Term 2 is concerned:**
 - > indefinites
 - > subjunctive (all forms) and words (sebbene, nonostante, a patto che, a condizione che...)
 - > passato remoto
 - > relative pronouns
 - > conditional and future in the past

Reading Comprehension

- 1. Why was Ficino's work on Plato important?
- Quando il filosofo Marsilio Ficino (1433–1499) scrisse la sua traduzione di alcuni dialoghi di Platone, lo fece perché Cosimo de' Medici glielo aveva chiesto di fare. Nel 1452 **Cosimo confessa a Ficino un suo desiderio profondo e ambizioso: restituire l'antico splendore all' "Accademia platonica", fondandola nuovamente a Firenze. In questo disegno di grandezza il ruolo del Ficino era appunto quello di tradurre in latino tutto Platone.** Sicuramente non si aspettava che i dialoghi avessero un tale successo come in effetti ebbero: i suoi contemporanei, pieni di entusiasmo per la nuova visione di Platone, volevano che continuasse a scrivere, consci del bisogno che ci fosse una traduzione completa. i suoi contemporanei, pieni di entusiasmo per la nuova visione di Platone, volevano che continuasse a scrivere, consci del bisogno che ci fosse una traduzione completa.
- **Sample answer**
- Ficino's work was important as he produced the first full translation of Plato into Latin, and he did so at the request of Cosimo de' Medici as part of his plan of re-founding the Platonic Academy in Florence.

Reading Comprehension

- 2. What kind of reception did Ficino's work have?
- **i suoi contemporanei, pieni di entusiasmo per la nuova visione di Platone, volevano che continuasse a scrivere, consci del bisogno che ci fosse una traduzione completa.** Pensavano che fosse del tutto necessario che Ficino finisse un lavoro così importante per la cultura del tempo e che, in poche parole, Platone parlasse la lingua dei Latini. Benché ci fossero state altre traduzioni prima di Ficino, egli fu il primo a lasciare una traduzione completa, che permettesse di vedere le opere di Platone nel loro insieme. Fu una decisione fortunata: *malgrado alcuni lo criticassero*, l'edizione di Ficino ebbe moltissime ristampe e fino al Settecento tutti la considerarono un'edizione autorevole di cui ci si poteva fidare.
- **Sample answer**
- Although there had been some criticism, his contemporaries were very enthusiastic as it was the first full translation of Plato into Latin. It had a great many reprints and was considered as an authoritative translation up to the 18th century

Reading Comprehension

- 3. Did Ficino expect success?
- *Sicuramente non si aspettava che i dialoghi avessero un tale successo come in effetti ebbero*
- **Sample answer**
- The author suggests that Ficino did not expect that his translation would be as successful as it was.

Translation

- When the philosopher Marsilio Ficino (1433-1499) wrote his translation of some of Plato's dialogues, he did so because Cosimo de' Medici **had** asked/requested him to (do it).
- In 1452, Cosimo confessed to Ficino **one of his** deep and ambitious desires: to restore the ancient splendour of the Platonic Academy, by founding it again in Florence.
- In this plan of grandeur, Ficino's role was precisely that of translating all of Plato's work into Latin.

- *Confessare* = to confess
- *restituire* = to give back / to restore
- *Disegno* = plan (*in this case*)
- *Grandezza* = greatness > grandeur
- *Appunto* = precisely

Translation

- Surely he didn't expect that the dialogues **would be** so successful as they indeed were (OR: would have as much success as they indeed had):
- his contemporaries, full of enthusiasm/very enthusiastic for this new vision of Plato, wanted him to continue to write,
- > **aware that a full translation was needed/aware of the need for a full translation**
(*word-to-word*: aware of the need that there was a complete translation)

Translation

- They thought that it was entirely necessary > **They thought it entirely necessary** that Ficino **would finish** a work so important for the culture of the time and that, in short, Plato would speak Latin (OR: the language of Latins)
 - Although there **had** been other translations before Ficino, he was the first one to leave (> to produce) a full translation, which allowed to see Plato's works in their entirety/as a whole.
 - It was a fortunate decision: although some criticized **him**, Ficino's edition had **a great many** reprints and until the eighteenth century everybody considered it as an authoritative edition that one could trust (> **to be trusted**)
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- *Del tutto* = entirely/absolutely
 - *Del tempo* = of the time
 - *In poche parole* = in short
 - *Benché* = although
 - *nel loro insieme* = as a whole / on their whole
 - *Autorevole* = authoritative

Translation

- Moreover, Ficino's production and work **fit** to that trend of platonic revival that established itself in the fifteenth century in the field of Renaissance studies,
- after the long medieval stage that saw the triumph of Aristotelianism (word-to-word: that saw the Aristotelianism triumph).
- In this period, indeed, Plato's work, known **so far (until then)** only through Saint Augustine, became directly accessible, brought over by Bizantine scholars who fled after the conquest of Costantinople by the Turks
- *affermarsi* = to assert / to establish itself
- *infatti* = indeed
- *tramite* = through/by means of
- *fuggito* = fled (verb: fuggire > to flee)
- *La conquista* = conquest
- *Da parte dei* = by...