

## Chapter 7: Faith-related

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### **Analysis of extensive excerpts from the homily of Pope Francis given in Spanish in Tacloban, Philippines in 2015 and interpreted in a consecutive mode into English by his personal interpreter Msgr. Mark Miles (ref. p. 265)**

The interpreted homily that the Holy Father gave at the Mass celebrated with over 80,000 faithful at that city's airport in February of 2015 is not only a classical example of the liturgical subtype but also contains several characteristics of the other three faith-related interpreting subtypes as discussed in Section 4 of Chapter 7. The aspects that are relevant to religious interpreting in the interpreted encounter that took place during the Mass that Pope Francis celebrated in Tacloban are:

- a) location: outdoors and its element– wind, rain
- b) mode: short consecutive, unilateral, one-to-many
- c) physical proximity: distant stage similar to conference interpreting settings rather than community; use of microphone and sound system to deliver the speech to a large gathering
- e) scriptural references and theological content
- f) spiritual guidance and counsel
- g) highly personal aspect: emotions, trauma, crisis
- e) interpretation into the major societal language which is English, while the languages of that region are mostly the Visayas languages: Hiligaynon (or Ilonggo), Cebuano, Waray, Aklanon; Tagalog is rarely used in that region; the religious ceremonies are primarily held in English throughout the entire country of the Philippines.

The following excerpts were selected to illustrate strategies applied by the Pope's interpreter - omissions, additions, expansions, reductions, paraphrasing, equivalence, terminological choice:

- appropriate/good - that did not affect the meaning,
- those that were not as good but acceptable- without affecting the meaning too severely,
- some instances, very few though, where the meaning was changed and affected.

Possible explanations for the interpreter's choices are also provided, when justifiable, in order to encourage reflection.

Legend for the analysis:

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**Pope Francis:** SL speech

*Translation into English in italics (provided only when the meaning was affected)*

**Interpreter:** TL speech

Analysis: parts of the speech in both SL and TL that differ and are analyzed have been underlined.

The Pope begins with an introductory remark in English where he tells the assembly that he would like to put aside his prepared homily and asks the faithful for the permission to switch into Spanish and use Msgr. Miles as his consecutive interpreter, whom he calls 'translator'.

Proofread again the entire analysis

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**Pope Francis:** If you allow me...I prefer...today...speak in Spanish. I have a translator, a good translator. May...I do that? [applause] May I?

Thank you very much.

Then the interpretation of the homily begins.

**Pope Francis:** En la primera lectura... escuchamos... que se dice... que tenemos un gran sacerdote...que es...capaz de... [Pope does not read the scripture in Spanish]

*In the first reading...we hear...that it is said...that we have a high priest who is capable.*

**Interpreter:** We have, we have, we have a high priest who is capable of sympathizing with our weaknesses. But one who is similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin.

Omission of the first part of the sentence: In the first reading...we hear...that it is said

Part starting with:... sympathizing with... is read directly from the Scripture in English

**Pope Francis:** Jesús es como nosotros.

**Interpreter:** Jesus is like us.

**Pope Francis:** Jesús vivió como nosotros.

**Interpreter:** Jesus lived like us.

**Pope Francis:** Es igual a nosotros en todo.

**Interpreter:** He's the same as us in every respect.

**Pope Francis:** En todo menos en el pecado

*In everything except in sin*

**Interpreter:** Except sin

Omission: In everything – acceptable

**Pope Francis:** porque no era pecador.

**Interpreter:** Because he was not a sinner.

**Pope Francis:** Pero para ser más igual a nosotros

**Interpreter:** But to be more like us

**Pope Francis:** se vistió, asumió nuestros pecados.

*He took upon himself, he assumed our sins.*

**Interpreter:** He assumed our condition and our sin.

Paraphrasing: our condition instead of took on himself – acceptable; for clarification

**Pope Francis:** Y Jesús ...va delante nuestro siempre.

**Interpreter:** And Jesus always goes before us.

**Pope Francis:** y cuando nosotros pasamos por alguna cruz,

*And when we pass by a cross*

**Interpreter:** And when we pass and experience a cross,

Expansion: good strategy; for clarification

**Pope Francis:** Él ya pasó primero.

**Interpreter:** He passed there before us,

**Pope Francis:** es porque tenemos la seguridad...de que no nos vamos a frustrar en la fe

**Interpreter:** it is because we have the security of knowing that we're not going to weaken in our faith

**Pope Francis:** porque Jesús pasó primero.

*because Jesus passed there first.*

**Interpreter:** because Jesus has been there before us.

Equivalence: good strategy

**Pope Francis:** En su Pasión él asumió todos nuestros dolores

**Interpreter:** In his Passion he assumed all our pain

**Pope Francis:** y cuando—permítanme esta confidencia

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*And when- permit me this confidence*

**Interpreter:** I'd like to tell you something close to my heart  
Paraphrasing: good strategy

**Pope Francis:** y cuando yo vi ...desde Roma...esta catástrofe,

**Interpreter:** when I saw from Rome th-that catastrophe

**Pope Francis:** sentí que tenía que estar aquí.

**Interpreter:** I felt that I had to be here. [applause]

**Pope Francis:** Y ese día...Esos días... decidí hacer el viaje aquí.

*And that day...those days...I decided to make the trip here.*

**Interpreter:** And on those very days, I decided to come here. (applause)

Paraphrasing: good strategy

**Pope Francis:** Estoy para decirles... que Jesús es el Señor.

**Interpreter:** I've come to tell you that Jesus is Lord.

**Pope Francis:** que Jesús no defrauda.

**Interpreter:** And He never lets us down. (applause)

**Pope Francis:** Padre, me puede decir uno de ustedes,

*Father, one of you might say to me,*

**Interpreter:** Father, you might say to me

Reduction: one of you might say changed into you might say - acceptable

**Pope Francis:** a mi me defraudó ...porque perdí mi casa, perdí mi familia, perdí lo que tenía, [**Interpreter:** I was...] estoy enfermo.

*I was let down...because I lost my house, I lost my family, I lost what I had, I am sick.*

**Interpreter:** I was let down because I've lost so many things, my house, my livelihood, I have illness.

Addition: so many things – acceptable as the introduction of the list coming next

Terminology choice: family into livelihood - incorrect

...

**Pope Francis:** pero lo miro ahí clavado

*But I lok at him nailed there*

**Interpreter:** But Jesus there...nailed to the cross

Reduction: acceptable

**Pope Francis:** y desde ahí no nos defrauda.

**Interpreter:** and from there, He does not let us down. (applause).

**Pope Francis:** Jesús es el Señor!

**Interpreter:** Jesus is Lord!

**Pope Francis:** y es Señor desde la cruz, ahí reinó.

*and is Lord from the cross, there he reigned.*

**Interpreter:** And the Lord from the cross, he is there for you.

Meaning changed: He is there for you instead of He reigned- incorrect; possibly the interpreter was unable to hear well due to technical difficulties

...

**Pope Francis:** Por eso tenemos... un Señor...que es capaz...de llorar con nosotros;

**Interpreter:** That is why we have a Lord who is capable of crying with y-us;

**Pope Francis:** que es capaz de acompañarnos

**Interpreter:** capable of walking with us

...

**Pope Francis:** Tantos de ustedes...han perdido parte de la familia.

**Interpreter:** Some of you have lost part of your families.

Paraphrasing: so many of you changed into some of you; acceptable but the meaning has been affected

**Pope Francis:** Los acompaño...con mi corazón en silencio.

**Interpreter:** And I walk with you all with my silent heart.

...

**Pope Francis:** y él nos comprende porque pasó por todas las pruebas [**Interpreter:** He understands us] que nos sobrevienen a nosotros.  
*...that we experience...*

**Interpreter:** He understands us because he underwent all the trials that we, that you have experienced.

Expansion, tense change: that we, that you have experienced instead of ...that we experience... acceptable; for emphasis

**Pope Francis:** Y junto a él en la cruz estaba la madre.

*And beside Him on the cross was his mother.*

**Interpreter:** And beside the cross, was his mother.

Reduction: acceptable

**Pope Francis:** Nosotros somos como ese chico que está ahí abajo,

**Interpreter:** We are like this little child...just there,

**Pope Francis:** que en los momentos...de dolor, de pena; en los momentos que no entendemos nada, en los momentos que queremos rebelarnos,

*In the moments of pain, of sorrow; in the moments that we do not understand anything, in the moments that we want to rebel,*

**Interpreter:** In the moments where we have so much pain, where we no longer understand anything,

Reduction: one synonym of sorrow - good strategy

Omission: in the moments we want to rebel - incorrect

**Pope Francis:** solamente nos viene estirar la mano [**Interpreter:** All...] y agarrarnos de su pollera

*All we can do is reach out a hand and grab hold of her skirt*

**Interpreter:** All we can do is grab hold of her hand firmly

Terminology choice: pollera into hand – acceptable

**Pope Francis:** “¡Mamá!” Como un chico que cuando tiene miedo dice: “¡Mamá!”.

**Interpreter:** And say: “Mum” as a child does to her mother when he or she feels fear.

Addition: and say- good strategy; for clarification

**Pope Francis:** Es quizás la única palabra que puede expresar lo que sentimos en los momentos oscuros: ¡madre!, ¡mamá!.

*It is perhaps the only word that can express what we are feeling in the dark momentos “mother, mum!”*

**Interpreter:** It is perhaps the only word we can say in such difficult times “mother, “mum.”

Terminological change: dark into such difficult - acceptable

**Pope Francis:** Hagamos juntos un momento de silencio,

**Interpreter:** Let us together hold a moment of silence,

Equivalence: good strategy

**Pope Francis:** miremos al Señor,

*let us look to the Lord*

**Interpreter:** Let us look to the Christ on the cross,

Terminology choice: Lord changed into Christ - incorrect

Addition: on the cross- acceptable

**Pope Francis:** él puede comprendernos...porque pasó por todas las cosas.

*He can understand us...because he passed through everything.*

**Interpreter:** He understands us because he endured everything.

Equivalence: passed through changed into endured – acceptable; for emphasis, but a better choice would probably be: ‘he passed through all the same things’

**Pope Francis:** Y miremos a nuestra Madre,

**Interpreter:** Let us look to our Mother,

**Pope Francis:** y como el chico que está abajo agarrémonos de la pollera,

*And like the little child that is below, let us grab hold of her skirt*

**Interpreter:** And like that little child let us grab hold of her mantle,

Terminological choice: 'pollera' is 'skirt'; the Peninsular Spanish differs from the Argentinian Spanish but it is acceptable as the meaning was equivalent

**Pope Francis:** y con el corazón digámosle “madre”.

*And with your heart, let us say to her “mother”*

**Interpreter:** And with a true heart say “mother.”

Expansion: heart changed into true heart – acceptable; meaning reinforced

**Pope Francis:** No estamos solos...tenemos una Madre...tenemos a Jesús [**Interpreter:** Let us...] nuestro hermano mayor.

*We are not alone. We have a Mother...we have in Jesus a great brother.*

**Interpreter:** Let us know that we have a Mother Mary and a...senior brother, a great brother, Jesus.

Omission: We are not alone.

Expansion: Mother changed into Mother Mary; for cultural reasons

Paraphrasing: mayor is older, and the interpreter's first choice was senior brother, he wondered whether the speaker meant great, hence the addition; probably uncertainty of the intended meaning:

...

**Pope Francis:** Esto es...lo único que me sale decirles. Perdónenme si no tengo otras palabras.

*This is the only thing that comes to me to say to you. Forgive me if I do not have any other words.*

**Interpreter:** This is what comes from my heart and forgive me if I have no other words to express this.

Omission and paraphrasing 'this is the only thing that comes to me' changed into 'that is what comes from my heart – unnecessary but acceptable; emotional reinforcement

Addition: if I do not have other words changed into if I have not other words to express this – good strategy; for emotional reinforcement

**Pope Francis:** Pero tengan la seguridad...de que Jesús no defrauda.

*But rest assured that Jesus does not let you down.*

**Interpreter:** But please know that Jesus never lets you down.

Paraphrasing: 'rest assured' changed into 'know' and 'please' added; message softened

...

**Pope Francis:** Y agarrados a ella como hijos y con la fuerza que nos da Jesús, nuestro hermano mayor, sigamos adelante.

*And holding onto her as children and with a power that Jesus our older brother gives us, let us move forward.*

**Interpreter:** And holding onto her mantle and with a power that comes from Jesus' love on the cross, let us move forward, always forward.

Meaning changed: holding onto her changed into holding onto her mantle- acceptable

**Pope Francis:** Y como hermanos caminémonos.

*And as brothers, let us walk.*

**Interpreter:** And walk together as brothers and sisters in the Lord, forward.

Expansion: brothers changed into brothers and sisters; for cultural reasons

Addition: in the Lord and forward; for emphasis

The following activity focuses on the meaning changes and their impact on the users. Was the meaning changed and how much?

### **Activity: Speaker, interpreter and delivery structure**

The interpretation analyzed above presents some shortcomings, however they are minor as far as meaning changes. Please read again the excerpts above and think whether you would recommend any strategy improvements, if any at all, for the following:

- A. In a few instances, the interpreter started his delivery too early; however, he did correct himself in most of those situations.
- B. Interpreting longer parts of the source speech that would include 10-14 units of meaning instead of 5-7 might seem more efficient. This, however, can also depend on the preference of the speaker and the capacity of working memory of the interpreter. What is your view on the length of interpreted segments in this particular setting?
- C. Was the intended purpose of the source speech maintained with this pace and segmentation? Did the interpretation cause the same reaction in the audience that the source speech would as well (e.g., applause)?