

Dear Giulio,

We have done two things with the Italian translation and its translation back into English of the 92 items from Trauma and Resources Scales.

First, we asked an Italian here in Columbia who teaches Italian (in fact, she tutored Giorgio Grande) to go over the Italian translation. Most of her suggestions are below. Some are very minor, like the insertion of a space or a comma, but others may have more substance.

#### **List of Suggested Adjustments to the Italian Translation**

2. Quando ero sconvolto o incerto sul da farsi dicevo a me stesso lo supererò. . .
12. Ho cambiato asili o scuole più spesso di altri ragazzi. . .
22. una persona più grande di me mi ha costretto a toccarlo nelle parti intime. . .
23. i membri della mia famiglia sono (*past tense?*) amorevoli a affettuosi gli uni con gli altri. . .
35. I miei insegnanti mi hanno protetto da atti di prepotenza a scuola. . .
39. sono stato respinto dagli altri ragazzi. . .
40. quando facevo bene ricevevo delle lodi. . .
42. Sono stato molestato sessualmente da altri ragazzi. . .
44. Aiutavo nelle faccende de di casa. . . *This appears to be an alternative.*
45. sono stato costretto a guardare cose di genere sessuale. . .
48. un adulto, come un insegnante o un consulente a scuola, aveva il tempo di ascoltarmi se avevo un problema. . .
51. Ia mia famglia era sempre pronta a sostenermi e a prendersi cura di me. . .
70. Mi sentivo benvoluto e amato da molte persone al di fuori della mia famiglia che tenevano molto a me. . .
74. sono stato fisicamente molestato da adulti. . .
75. i miei compagni di classe mi cercavano per avere aiuto nei compiti o nei progetti a scuola. . .
79. una persona più grande di me mi ha toccato nelle mie parti intime quando non volevo che lo facesse. . .
84. ho parlato dei miei problemi con persone più grandi di me. . .
85. venivo incoraggiato a crescere e ad avere successo. . .
86. sono stato repinto da altri. . .
89. sentivo di potermi comportare come i miei genitori o i miei tutori volevano che io facessi. . .
90. avevo qualcuno che mi confortava quando avevo paura on mi facevo male. . .

Second, the five of us on the research team considered the translation of the Italian back into English. We spotted a number of problems which may be in either the Italian translation or in the back-translation into English. Here they are.

**The use of “sconvolto”:** The translation back into English rendered this as “dumbfounded (shocked)” where the original English was “upset”. In America “upset” has the connotation of emotional turmoil that may endure over a period of days or longer. In contrast, “dumbfounded” or “shocked” have the connotation of a sharp surprise lasting a brief time. Moreover, “dumbfounded” has the connotation of surprise, but with little or no emotional turmoil. Literally, “dumbfounded” means to be speechless with surprise. A look at our Italian-English dictionary suggests that the translation is likely correct, but the back translation is erroneous. This problem occurs in items 2, 11, 29, 62, and 73.

**The use of “ragazzi”:** The translation back into English renders this as “boys” where the original English was “kids”. The word “kids” and its singular form “kid” applies equally to males and females. Moreover, it is the term everyone between the ages of 5 and 20 (and sometimes even older) uses to refer to each other. The use of a gender specific reference here significantly distorts the meanings of the items in which this occurs. English grammar has lost most of its gender distinctions. This, I think, is not true of Italian. There may be no single word in Italian corresponding to “kids”. If “ragazzi” really does mean “boys”, then some further work on the Italian translation is necessary for items 39, 47, and 52.

**The use of “male”:** The translation back into English renders this as “evil” where the original English was “harm”. In America, the primary meaning of “harm” is “hurt; injury; damage; impairment”. Thus, harm may happen without any moral dimension. “Evil”, on the other hand, is a very strong word with a heavy and negative moral connotation. Items 9, 65, and 68 use this term.

**The use of “risolvere”:** The translation back into English renders this as “solve” where the original English was “handle”. In this context, “to handle” means “to cope” or “to deal with”. The word “solve” has a more analytical character. The English word “resolve” is closer to the usage of “handle”. Items 37 and 73 involve this word.

**The use of tenses:** In the original English, all the items are set in the past tense. “I had a friend...”, rather than the present tense “I have a friend...” or the past perfect tense “I have had a friend...”. The translation back into English leads us to believe that the tenses of the verbs in the Italian translation vary from item to item (although most seem to be in the past tense).

**The use of “rifiutato”:** In the translation back into English “rifiutato” was rendered as “turned down”, where the original English had “neglected” in item 39 and “rejected” in item 86. Now “rejected” and “turned down” are very close, but “neglected” and “rejected” have mutually exclusive meanings, at least to some degree. If you submit a paper to a journal and the editor never responds, then you have been neglected. If you submit a paper to a journal and the editor writes you a letter saying that your paper is not good enough to be published, then you have been rejected.

**Item 7:** The translation back into English is “I was hit by an adult person...”. The original is “I was beaten by an adult...”. To be hit means to be struck once, and perhaps very softly. To be beaten means to be hit, perhaps even kicked, frequently and hard enough to cause significant pain and perhaps injury. It implies defeat.

**Item 78:** The translation back into English is “I was safe and calm...” and the original was “I was safe and secure...”. Actually, “safe” and “secure” have about the same meanings in the United States. The phrase “safe and secure” is a colloquial expression for “very safe”. On the other hand, a person who is safe and secure need not be calm.

The Italian translation seems to be very good. Even a lot of the points mentioned above may be due to the translation back into English, rather than the translation from English into Italian. Once these points are addressed, it looks good to us. What about translating the instructions and the demographic questions?

Best Regards  
George McNulty