

# **Figures of sound in *Utopia***

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*Poetae ergo nugas, dialectici seria tractant. Poetae fingunt, ac mentiuntur, Dialectici nunquam nisi uera loquuntur [...].*

“So the poets are busy with trifles, dialecticians with serious affairs. Poets feign and tell lies; dialecticians speak only the truth”

[Traduzione di Daniel Kinney]

*In: MORE, Thomas. The Complete Works of St. Thomas More,. Vol. 15:Letter to Martin Dorp, Letter to the University of Oxford, Letter to Edward Lee, Letter to a Monk with a new text and translation of Historia Richardi Tertii. Edited by Daniel Kinney. New Haven/London: Yale University Press, 1986.*

*Nam si recta est ea interpretatio, necesse est eam aut ab ipsa re, quae enuntiatur, aut ex proprietate sermonis emergere.*

“For if that interpretation is right then it must emerge either from the fact of the matter being stated or from the particular force of the idiom employed.”

[Traduzione di Daniel Kinney]

*nullo rerum subnixā pondere*

“unrestrained by connections with actual things”

*absunt autem ipsi tam longe fere, quam ab ipsa Theologia, a qua tam longe absunt, ut ab nulla re absint, preterquam a communi hominum sensu, longius*

“But they are almost as far removed from those arts as they are from theology proper; and from nothing, apart from ordinary common sense, are they further removed than from that”

[Traduzione di Daniel Kinney]

*At litterarius mea certe sententia, nisi qui omnes omnino scientias excusserit, appellari nemo debet*

“no one, in my opinion at least, may be styled a man of letters who has not pored through each and every one of the sciences”

[Traduzione di Daniel Kinney]

Juan Luis Vives:

*Auctores in quibus versabitur, ii erunt qui pariter et linguam et mores excolant, atque instituant; quique non modo bene scire doceant, sed bene vivere; hujusmodi sunt Ciceronis, Senecae, Plutarchi opera [...], aliquot Platonis opera, praesertim qui ad rempublicam gubernandam spectant, Hyeronimi epistolae, et quaedam Ambrosii et Augustini opera, Erasmi institutio principis, [...] Thomas Mori Utopia.*

“Authors that should be studied are those who honor and cultivate both language and moral values and who do not only teach how to know well, but also how to live well; these include the works by Cicero, Seneca, Plutarch [...] some works by Plato, especially those that take into account the government of a republic, Jerome's letters and some works by Ambrose and some by Augustine, *The Education of a Christian prince* by Erasmus [...] Thomas More's Utopia.”

*Hic primus et unicus tibi sit scopus, hoc votum, hoc unum age, ut muteris, ut rapiaris, ut affleris, ut transformeris in ea, quae dicis.*

“So let this be your one and only objective, let this be your prayer, let this be your one purpose – that you be changed, caught up, inspired and transformed into that which you are learning.”

[Traduzione di Brian Cummings]

*nec erat quod in eloquendo laboraretur, quando nec illius sermo potuit exquisitus esse, quum esset primum subitarius, atque extemporalis, deinde hominis, ut scis, non perinde Latine docti quam Graece, & mea oratio quanto accederet propius ad illius neglectam simplicitatem, tanto futura sit propior ueritati, cui hac in re soli curam & debeo & habeo. (CW 4, 38/9-14)*

“Wherefore there was no cause whie I shold study to set forth the matter with eloquence ; for asmuch as his talke cold not be fine and eloquent, being firste not studied for, but sodein and vnpremeditate, and then, as you know, of a man better sene in the greke language then in the latine tong. And my writing, the nigher it shold approche to his homely, playne, and simple speche, somuch the nigher shold it go to the trueth ; whiche is the only marke, whereunto I do and ought to direct all my trauail and study herin.”

[Translation by Ralph Robynson in Lupton’s edition of 1895]

Lain text MORE, Thomas. *Utopia*. In: *The Complete Works of St. Thomas More*, vol 4, Edited by Edward Surtz, S.J. and J. H. Hexter. New Haven/London: Yale University Press, 1965.