**1. Stile accademico (Academic writing)**

“The pianist Paul Wittgenstein, brother of the well-known philosopher who wrote the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* that today many consider the masterpiece of contemporary philosophy, happened to have Ravel write for him a concerto for the left hand, since he had lost the right one in the war.”

“When the society was in darkness, Chattampi Swiamikal’s thoughts and words a fire that radiated all over the State.”

“The Catholic Church in Poland, consecrated to the motherly protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, showed publicly its loving and filial devotion and affection to her by celebrating the Marian Congress in the Marian Year of 1987, pronuonced by John Paul II who was a son of Polish soil.”

“Il rapido e sconsiderato ritiro dall’Afghanistan è l’emblema della disastrosa politica estera di Biden.”

“As Catherine Fletcher remarks,

the few women rulers in Europe sent their own embassies to Rome. Anne of Brittany, queen of France, sent envoys in 1499 to pledge obedience in her name. Debate ensued as to whether a queen could pledge obedience without a king, although formally the embassy came on behalf of Brittany, which Anne ruled in her own right. Only once it was established that they came with the permission of the king of France were they granted an official audience. When women did take central roles in diplomacy it was overwhelmingly as regents for their husbands, nephews and sons. As a consequence, there were almost no women involved in the diplomacy of the Italian republics.”

**2. Note a piè di pagina (Footnotes)**

Come ha giustamente notato Emily O’Brien, i *Commentarii,* scritti da Pio II tra l’estate del 1462 e la primavera del 1464, non vanno considerati come il consueto diario composto per custodire i ricordi della propria vita, bensì come un’auto-apologia vera e propria in cui il papa giustificava le sue decisioni e soprattutto si difendeva dalle accuse dei critici del suo pontificato; uno di questi era Niccolò Cusano, cardinale che, subito dopo la salita al soglio papale di Pio II, su richiesta del nuovo pontefice preparò, insieme con gli altri prelati, un progetto di riforma della Curia. Nel 1461, durante il concistoro per la creazione dei nuovi cardinali, Cusano accusò Piccolomini di non mettere in pratica la riforma. Disse al papa: *Se ti senti di ascoltare la verità, ti dirò che non mi piace niente di ciò che si fa in questa Curia. Tutto è corruzione. Nessuno soddisfa al suo dovere; né a te né ai cardinali sta a cuore la Chiesa (…). Tutti seguono l’ambizione e la cupidigia. Se qualche volta in concistoro faccio parola della riforma vengo deriso*. Secondo O’Brien, Pio II, per respingere le accuse, si presenta nei *Commentarii* come un perfetto pontefice che desiderava sinceramente rinnovare l’ambiente curiale ma che erano i cardinali corrotti ad ostacolare i suoi tentativi. Il Piccolomini cercò di convincere i suoi lettori che la situazione della Curia che gli aveva lasciato Callisto III, era drammatica e che non era facile rimediare agli errori commessi dal primo papa Borgia; a questo fine presentò il suo predecessore come particolarmente depravato ed i cardinali come un gruppo di degeneri la cui condotta immorale era motivo di grave scandalo. Aggravando le loro colpe, Pio II voleva giustificare il ritardo nella realizzazione della riforma.

As rightly noted by Emily O'Brien, the *Commentarii*, written by Pius II between the summer of 1462 and the spring of 1464, should not be considered as the usual diary composed to preserve memories of one's life. Instead, they should be viewed as a genuine self-apology in which the pope justified his decisions and, above all, defended himself against the criticisms of his pontificate. One of his critics was Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa, who, immediately after Pius II's ascent to the papal throne, prepared, at the new pope's request, a reform project for the Curia. During the 1461 consistory for the appointment of new cardinals, Cusa accused Piccolomini of failing to implement reform. He said to the pope, *If you are willing to hear the truth, I will tell you that I do not like anything that is done in this Curia. Everything is corrupt. No one fulfills their duty; neither you nor the cardinals care for the Church (…). All follow ambition and greed. Whenever I speak of reform in consistory, I am ridiculed*. According to O'Brien, Pius II, to reject these accusations, presents himself in the *Commentarii* as a perfect pope who sincerely desired to renew the curial environment, but it was the corrupt cardinals who hindered his efforts. Piccolomini tried to convince his readers that the state of the Curia left by Callistus III was dire and that it was not easy to rectify the mistakes made by the first Borgia pope. To this end, he portrayed his predecessor as particularly depraved and the cardinals as a group of degenerates whose immoral behavior was a cause of grave scandal. By accentuating their guilt, Pius II aimed to justify the delay in implementing the reform