**Material 7 – Dangerous translations.**

Tool:

[Intercultural competence for professional mobility](http://archive.ecml.at/mtp2/icopromo/html/Icopromo_E_pdesc.htm) (ICORPOMO). Council of Europe 2007. CD: Training activities -> *communicating across cultures -> Rich Points*

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| Why? | **Aims and contents**  The activities aim for students to:  - become aware of the difficulty involved in understanding, interpreting and translating keywords (literal translation is not always possible and carries risks of misinterpretation),  - become more aware of how different languages and cultures depict reality in different ways.  **Targeted competences**  **-** I can observe/analyse linguistic elements/cultural phenomena in languages/cultures which are more or less familiar. (CARAP, skills S-1),  - I can compare linguistic/cultural features of different languages/cultures. (CARAP, skills, S-3),  -I can carry out tranfers of (semantic) content (can recognise core meanings within correspondence of meaning). (CARAP, skills, S-5.3.2),  -I can gain from from transfers made (successful/unsuccessful) between a known language and another language in order to acquire features of that other language. (CARAP, skills, S-7). |
| What? | Rich points/keywords.  The ‘cultural load’ of a language.  Reality depicted in different languages. |
| How? | Facilitator makes use of the following resources:  *Intercultural competence for professional mobility/Communicating across cultures/Rich points (CD-Rom).*  He/she provides an example of a“rich point”.  In groups, students share examples of keywords they have come across so far.  As a whole group, students discuss which connotations they associate with a word with a view of confronting their ideas with the reality abroad.  Suggestion: “pub” – “café.  Individually, students try to find examples of situations where they could not find a literal translation for a word or concept. They share their examples with the group.  Students discuss what a given word translation/lack of word translation imply about the way one culture considers a given reality. |
| Product | Set of associations/connotations around one concept in the mother tongue (at this stage) and (later) in the foreign language.  Examples of words that cannot be successfully translated into a corresponding word in a foreign language. |