



## **“Mind the (lexical) gap!”: the bilingual dictionary as a bridge between languages and cultures**

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In our contribution, we shall deal with the cross-cultural dimension of bilingual dictionaries (focusing on the French/Italian pair). In order to illustrate the culture-specific elements of lexicon<sup>1</sup>, we shall focus on the phenomenon of equivalence and will try to outline semantic implications for partial and non-equivalence (due reference will be made to denotational and connotational meanings; linguistic vs. extralinguistic dichotomy; lexical gaps, both semantic and referential). Taking the anisomorphism of languages as a starting point<sup>2</sup>, we shall develop the concept of cultural load<sup>3</sup> (non-shared cultural loads will prove particularly significant) and consider language-culture as a whole. Finally, we shall touch on the phenomenon of false borrowings<sup>4</sup>, bearers of a fallacious similarity, and study some cases from a contemporary French-Italian dictionary.

### **References:**

- <sup>1</sup> Szende Thomas, (ed.), *Les écarts culturels dans les dictionnaires bilingues*, Paris : hampion, 2003 ; Tomaszczyk Jerzy, « The culture-bound element in bilingual dictionaries », in Hartmann Reinhard Rudolf Karl (ed.), *LEXeter '83 Proceedings. Papers from the International Conference on Lexicography at Exeter, 9-12 September 1983*, Tübingen : Niemeyer, 1984, pp. 289-297
- <sup>2</sup> Szende Thomas, « Problèmes d'équivalence dans les dictionnaires bilingues », in Bejoint Henri – Thoiron Philippe (eds.), *Les dictionnaires bilingues*, Louvain-La-Neuve : Aupelf-Uref-Duculot, 1996, pp. 111-126 .
- <sup>3</sup> Galisson Robert, « Culture et lexiculture partagées : les mots comme lieux d'observation des faits culturels », *Études de linguistique appliquée*, 69, janvier-mars 1988, pp. 74-90. See also Anna Wierzbicka's studies on Cultural Scripts, e.g. « 'Cultural scripts' : a new approach to the study of cross-cultural communication », in Pütz Martin (ed.), *Language Contact and Language Conflict*, Amsterdam/Philadelphia : John Benjamins, 1994, pp. 69-87.
- <sup>4</sup> Humbley John, « Emprunts, vrais et faux, dans le Petit Robert 2007 », in Pruvost Jean (ed.) *Les Journées des dictionnaires de Cergy. Dictionnaires et mots voyageurs*, Eragny-sur-Oise : Editions des Silves, 2007, pp. 221-238.