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LANGUAGE

# LANGUAGE PORTRAITS

## DISCOVERING OUR MULTILINGUAL SELVES

By Dr. Carola Koblitz



# WHAT IS A LANGUAGE PORTRAIT?

- A creative tool to reflect on the languages in your life.
- You fill in a body silhouette with colors to represent the languages you know, use, feel, and live.
- It's not about how well you speak a language – it's about how it lives in you.
- It's your language story, visualized!

1-Dari  
2-uzbekisch  
3-pashto  
4-Turkisch  
5-Deutsch  
6-Latin



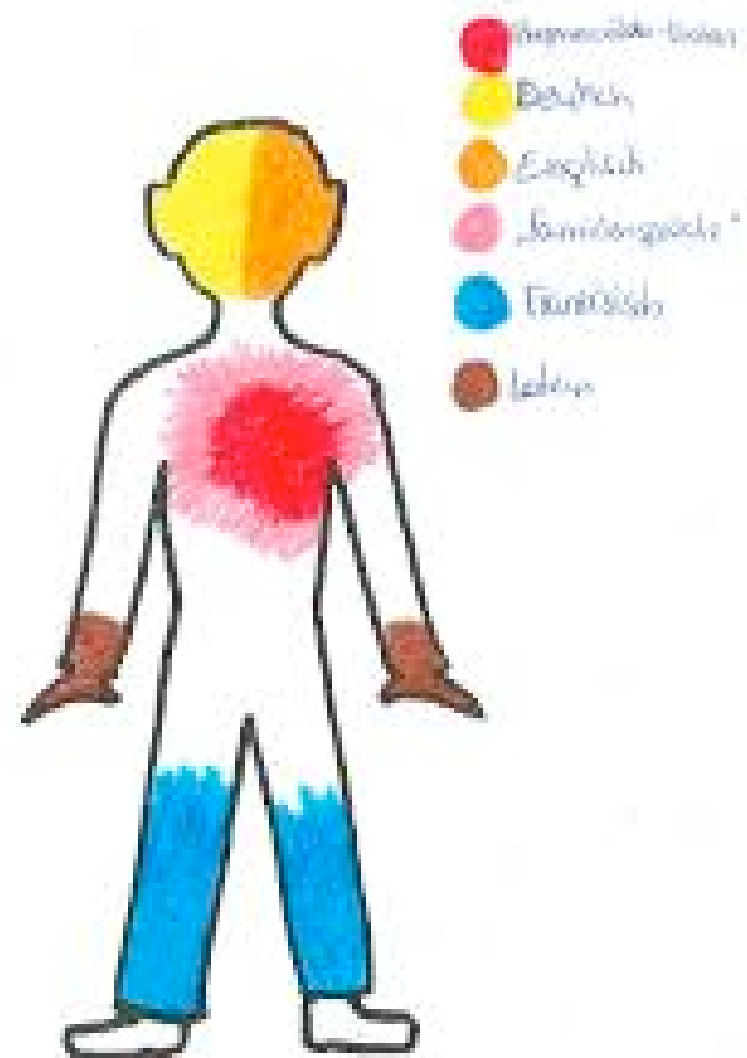
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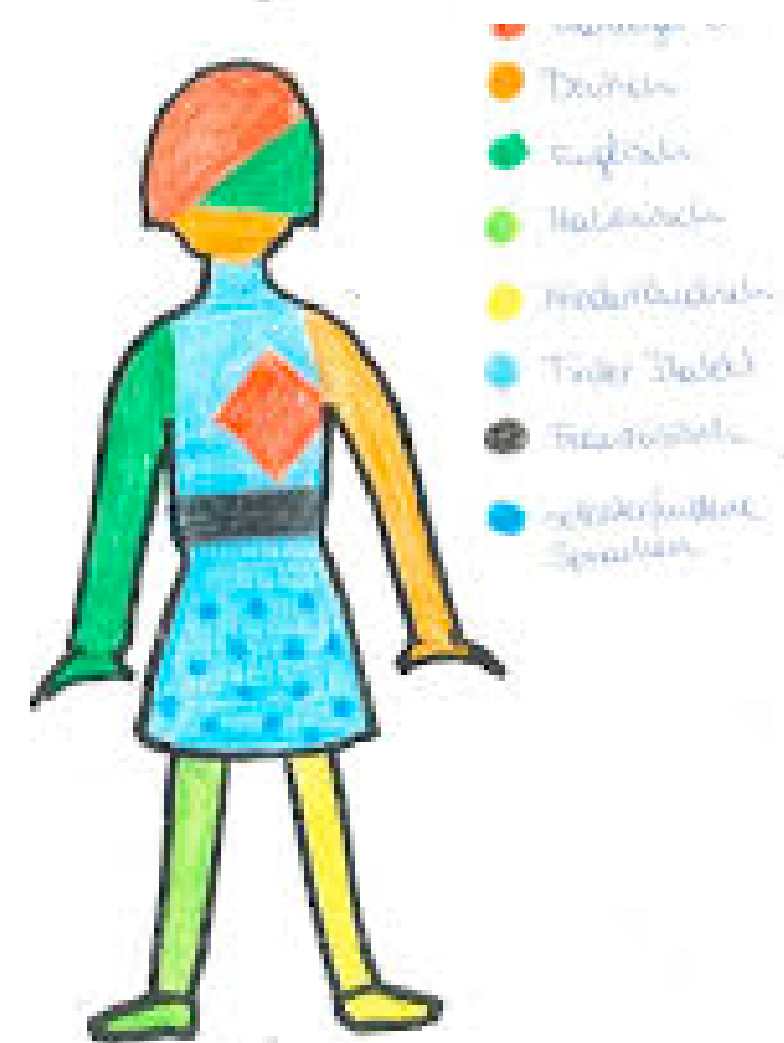
# LANGUAGE PORTRAITS

## BY PROF. DR. KRUMM

meine Sprache(n)



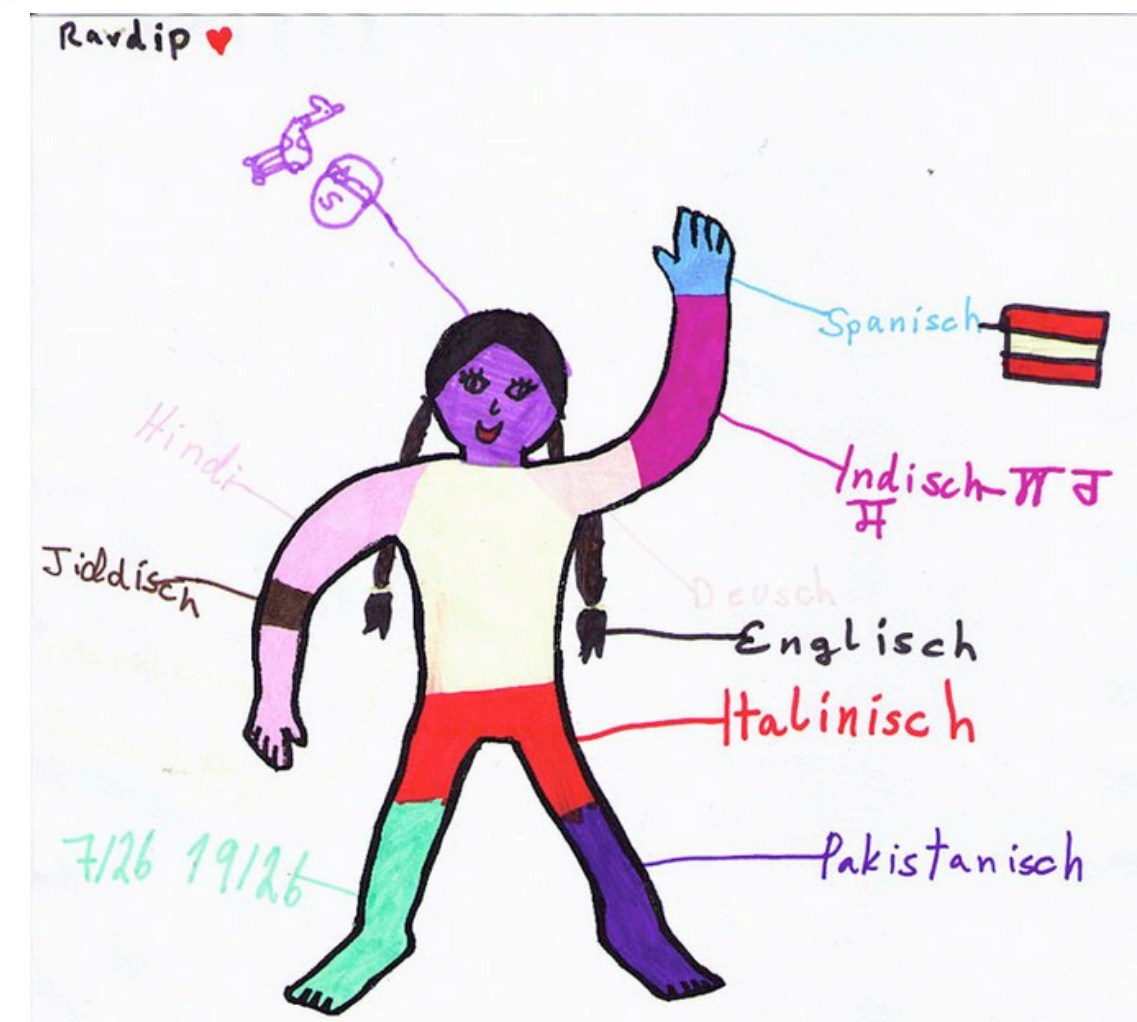
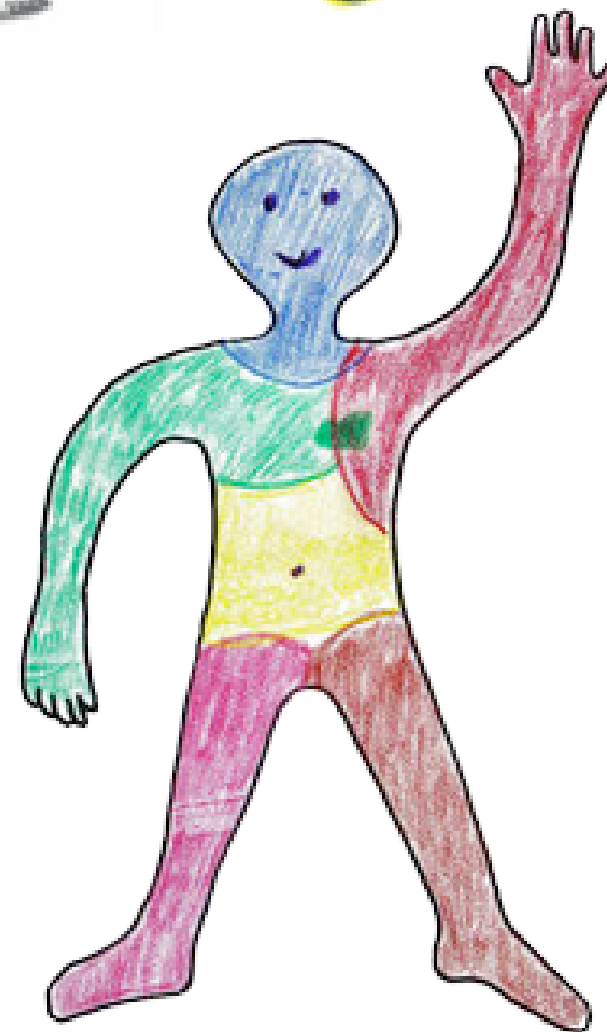
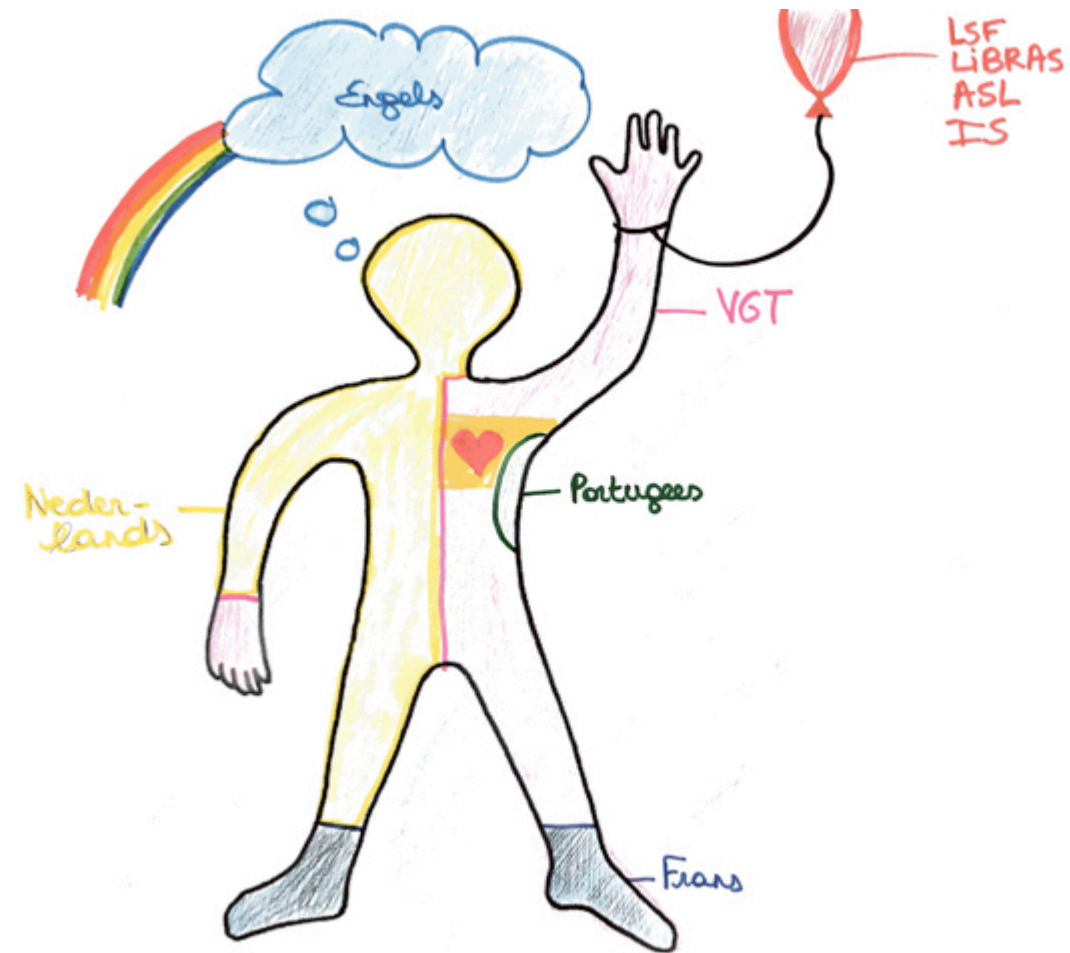
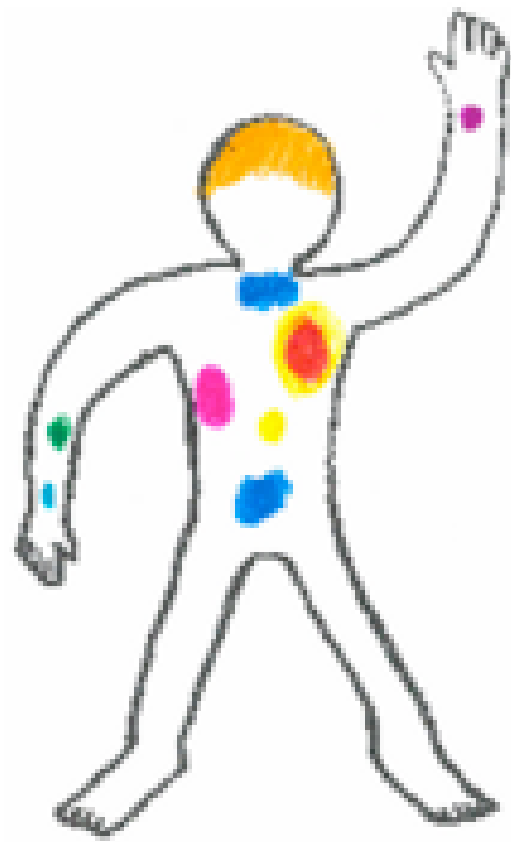
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# BUSCH SILHOUETTE



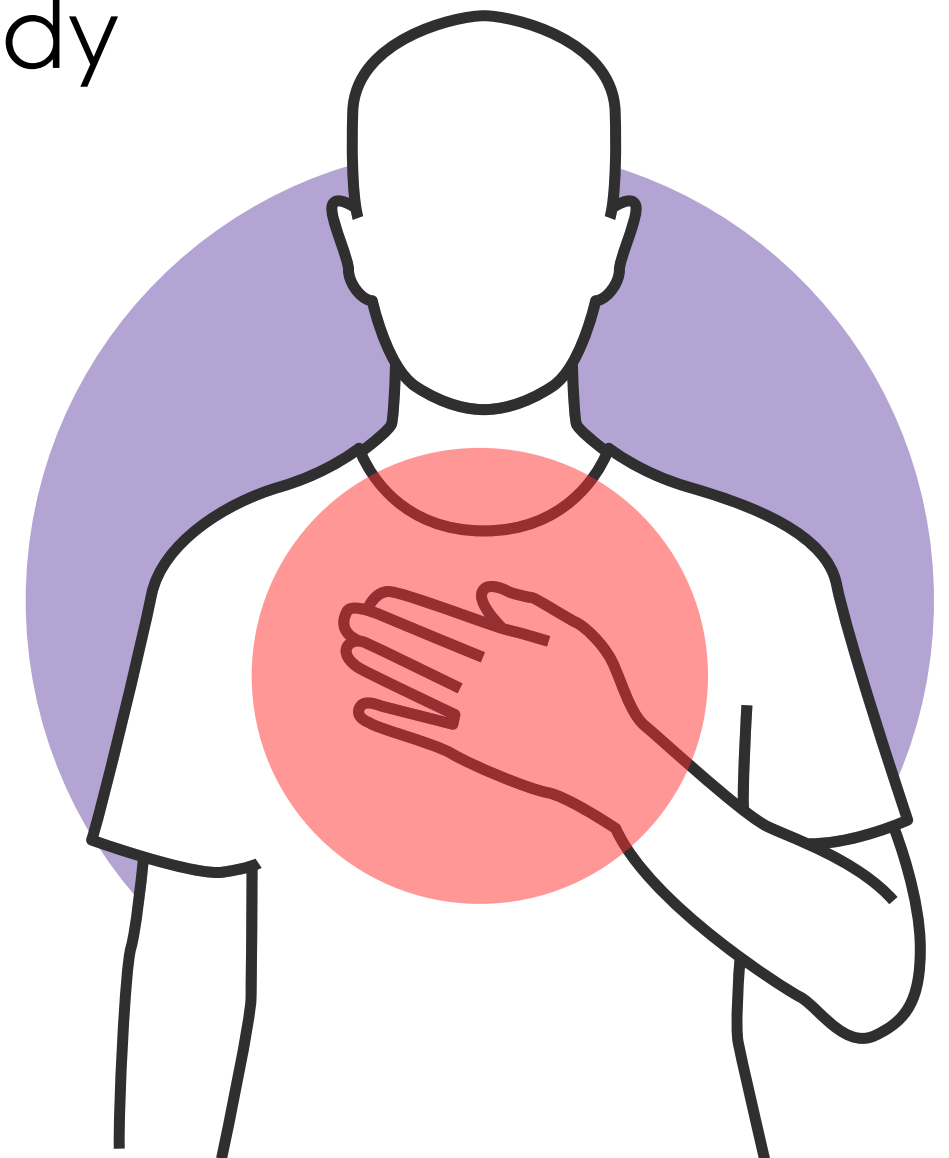




# WHY IS IT POWERFUL?

- Language is more than grammar — it's identity
- Multilingual people often live in many "language worlds"
- The portrait helps you reflect, discover, and share:
  - Where your languages are "felt" in the body
  - What languages mean to you
  - Which situations you use them in

Your head, heart, and hands may speak  
different languages!



# WHERE IS IT USED?

- ◆ Schools and universities
- ◆ Adult education & integration workshops
- ◆ Therapy & counselling
- ◆ Teacher training
- ◆ Community work

**Always to raise awareness of how people experience and carry their languages**



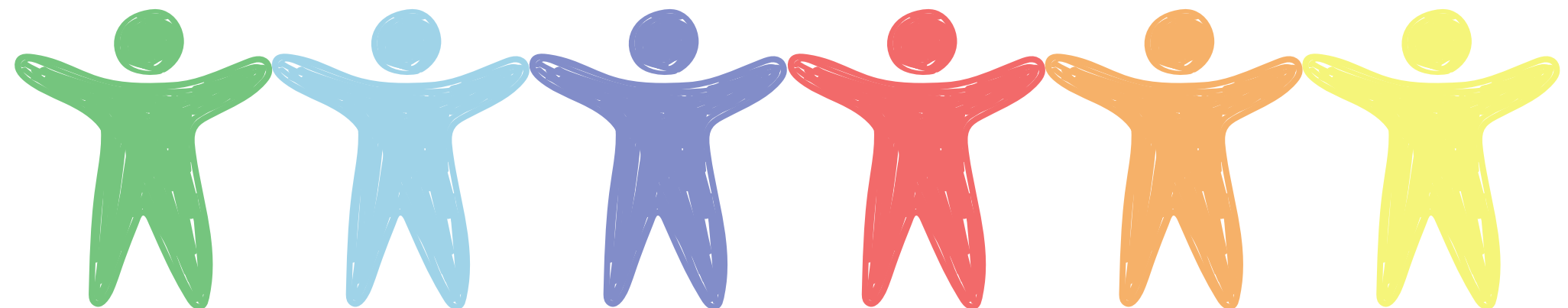


# HOW TO DO IT – THE BASICS

1. Get your body silhouette (paper or digital).
2. Think about the languages in your life.
3. Choose colors for each language.
4. Mark where you “feel” each one. (e.g., Spanish in the heart, German in the hands, Arabic in the ears)
5. Add symbols, words, or drawings if you like.



**! There is no “right” or “wrong” way!**



# REFLECTING ON IT

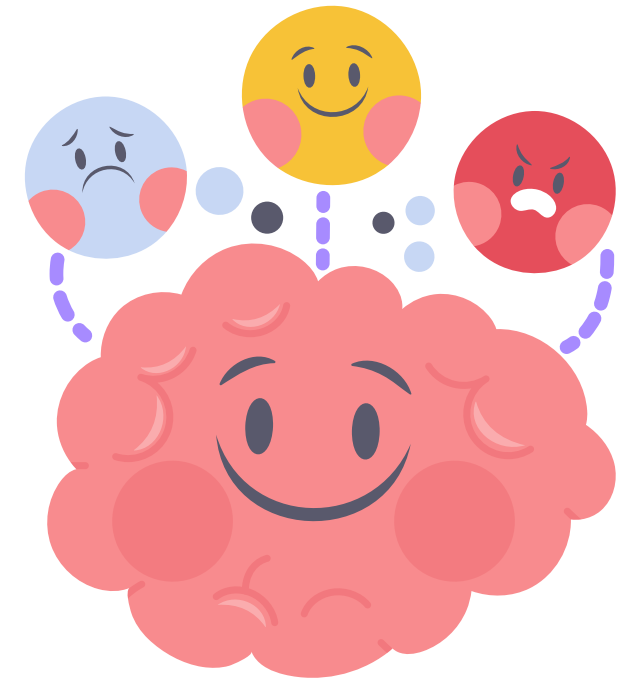
## Ask yourself:

- How did it feel to do this?
  - What surprised you?
  - Are there “invisible” languages in your story?
  - Where do you feel proud/ confused/ powerful?
- ✦ Language is not just spoken - it's lived.



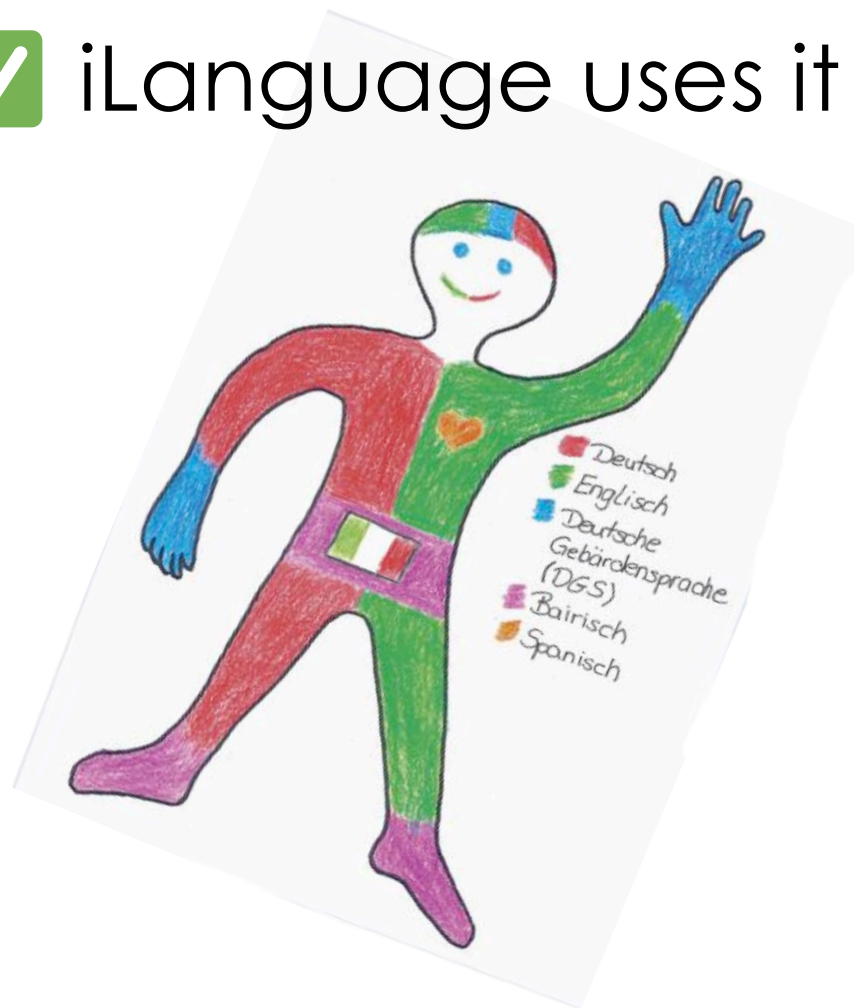
# USING IT WITH OTHERS

- In your job (e.g. with students, clients, children)
- With your family or friends
- In team-building or training sessions
- As a personal reflection tool
- Use it to talk about diversity, belonging, identity, and inclusion
- It opens doors to stories that language tests never show!



# REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES

- ✓ Teacher in the UK uses it to understand students' emotional connections to language
- ✓ NGO in South Africa uses it to explore mixed-language identities
- ✓ Psychologists use it to support migrant youth processing trauma
- ✓ iLanguage uses it for Erasmus+ trainings like this one! 😊



# TIPS FOR LEADING A LANGUAGE PORTRAIT ACTIVITY

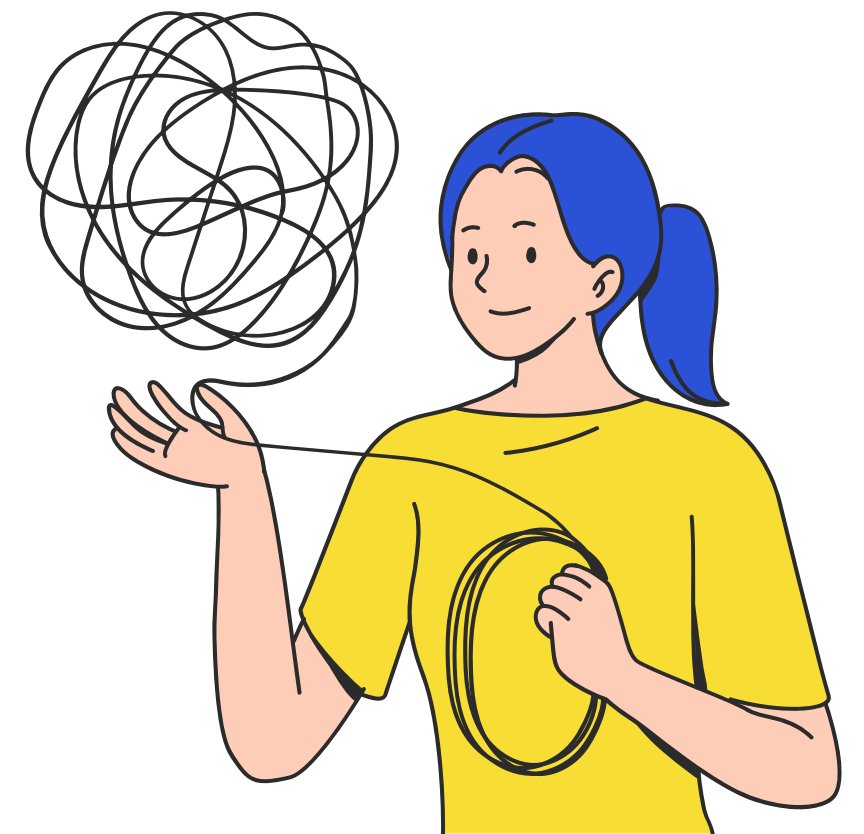
- Create a safe, open space
- Offer plenty of materials (colors, extra paper, markers)
- Give enough time
- Listen without judging
- Let people share if they want
- Emphasize that all languages count - home languages, street languages, signs, music, emojis!





# LANGUAGE PORTRAITS AND YOUR LIFE

- Helps you reflect on your language journey
- Makes your invisible language experiences visible
- Helps you connect with others through language stories
- Can be a practical tool in education, work, and community
- It's not just art - it's identity, resilience, and multilingual awareness



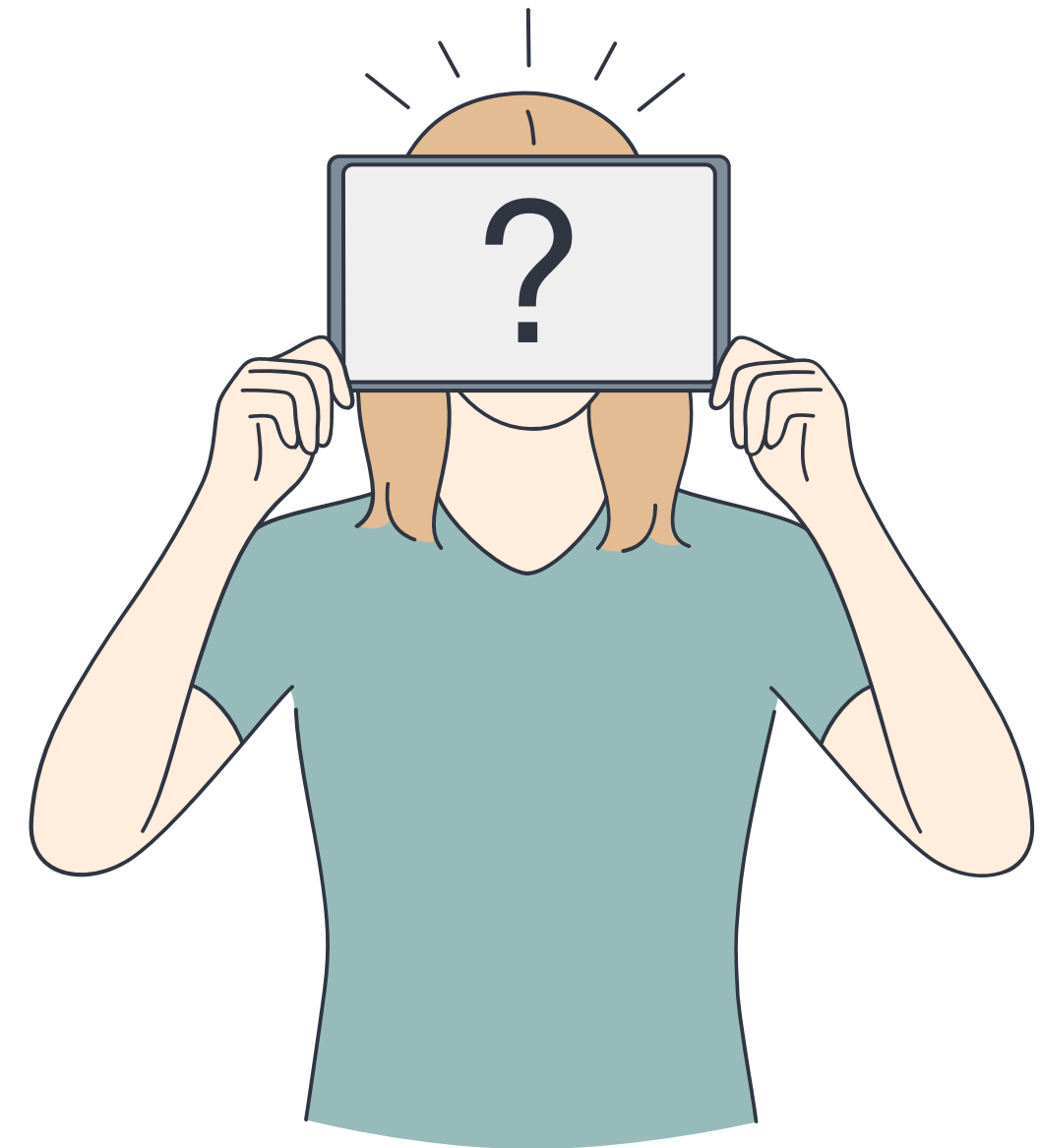


# READY TO TRY?

- You'll get your own silhouette
- Think about YOUR languages
- Tell YOUR story
- Multilingualism is not a problem to fix — it's a richness to celebrate!

# QUESTIONS & REFLECTION

- What languages shape who you are?
- How can you use this tool in your daily life or job?
- What story are you ready to tell?





# THANK YOU!!!

We look forward to seeing your portraits!



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