

ENDANGERED LANGUAGES

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Tenth lecture
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ENDANGERED LANGUAGES IN EDUCATION

Language revitalization

Ways of teaching a minority language

Case study: Scottish Gaelic

Scottish Gaelic in education



LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION

In the broader sense: a cover term for activities aimed at keeping a language alive or bringing it back to life.

[recall Fishman's «Reversing language shift»]

- ❖ Language **maintenance**: keep a strong but threatened language alive, don't let it get endangered
- ❖ Language **revitalization** (narrower sense): strengthen an endangered language
- ❖ Language **revival**: bring a forgotten language back into use
- ❖ Language **reclamation**: don't accept a language's extinction

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN REVITALIZATION

„It is the teaching of language, whether in existing or in new educational facilities, that constitutes the most frequently employed tool of language revitalization/language maintenance.” (Wicherkiewicz 2014)

<http://languagesindanger.eu/book-of-knowledge/endangered-languages-ethnicity-identity-and-politics/>

HOW CAN A MINORITY LANGUAGE BE TAUGHT?

Within the general education system (in schools):

- ❖ Language classes as part of the curriculum
(medium of education is the majority language)
- ❖ Bilingual education (part of the education in the minority language, part in the majority language)
- ❖ Minority language as medium of education (all subjects)
 - For children from the minority: special schools
 - For children from the majority: immersion programs
 - Today often together – why?




Outside of the education system

- ❖ Kindergardens, playgroups, child-care by speakers of the language; **language nests**
- ❖ Language classes by private or public organizations
- ❖ Private lessons, web-based language learning, etc.

Which factors decide about the choice of method?

FACTORS DETERMINING THE CHOICE

- status and governmental support
- absolute number of learners; age
- relative number within population (e.g. children in school)
- native or home language of learners
- availability and quality of teachers and materials
- literacy
- financial needs and support
- prestige, attitudes



Case study:

Scottish Gaelic

SCOTTISH GAELIC IN EDUCATION

There are many **possibilities** to learn the language:

- ❖ Preschool institutions and playgroups
- ❖ Primary education in Gaelic (GME) for children with and without prior knowledge of the language
- ❖ Bilingual education (primary and secondary)
- ❖ Language courses for adults
- ❖ Materials for self-studying and private lessons

ARE THESE POSSIBILITIES USED?

„**Gaelic medium education** is increasingly popular throughout Scotland, and the number of pupils who are in Gaelic medium education has risen from 24 in 1985 (its first year)^[1] to **3,892 in 2016**.^[2] The current figure is the highest number of Gaelic medium Education pupils in Scotland since the 2005 passage of the **Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act** by the Scottish Parliament. ”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaelic_medium_education_in_Scotland

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/dspuppcensus>

BUT...

The total number of pupils in Scotland in 2016 was 684,415. So 3,892 in **Gaelic medium classes** = **0.57%** of all pupils.

More pupils were learning Gaelic in **Gaelic language classes**: 6,055 (= **0.88%**).

GAELIC MEDIUM EDUCATION (GME) IN SCOTLAND

(SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.GAIDHLIG.SCOT/BORD/EDUCATION/PRIMARY-EDUCATION/](http://www.gaidhlig.scot/bord/education/primary-education/))

- ❖ began in primary schools in the 1980s
- ❖ today 60 GME departments or dedicated schools throughout Scotland across 14 Local Authorities
- ❖ a national education system which adheres to national standards and Curriculum for Excellence
- ❖ Pupils are usually taught entirely through Gaelic during their first three years in primary school.
- ❖ After P3, English is gradually introduced through the medium of Gaelic, but Gaelic remains the predominant language of the classroom in all areas of the curriculum.

GME aims to address the needs of both fluent Gaelic speakers and pupils who do not have full fluency.

Pupils will also receive an excellent education in all other areas of Curriculum for Excellence. Indeed, research shows that when GME pupils reach P7, on average their English language skills tend to be better than those of their mono-lingual counterparts.

In addition to their class-based education, pupils will sometimes have the chance to meet people from the community who have Gaelic in order to encourage children to use the language in different situations. Gaelic schools and departments also tend to forge ties with other Gaelic schools.

<http://www.gaidhlig.scot/bord/education/primary-education/>

see also: <http://www.parant.org.uk/index.php/gme>

PROBLEMS?

149 home languages of pupils in Scotland (2016)

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/dspupcensus/dspupcensus16> Table 1.14

Which had the most speakers? Where is Gaelic?


rank	language	pupils
1	English	631 557
2	Polish	14 739
3	Urdu	5 814
4	Scots	5 889
22	Gaelic	522

HOW IS THE LEARNING OF GAELIC SUPPORTED?

- ❖ Legislation (Gaelic Language Act, other)
- ❖ Organizations (main: Bòrd na Gàidhlig, <http://www.gaidhlig.scot/bord/>)
- ❖ Prestige and attitudes (campaigns, appearance of Gaelic in public space)
- ❖ Advice and support for parents: Comann nam Pàrant, <http://www.parant.org.uk/index.php>
- ❖ Materials: <http://gaelic4parents.com/>

GAELIC FOR ADULTS

- Sabhal Mòr Ostaig – National Center for Gaelic Language and Culture;
<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/colaiste/welcome/>
- Links to Gaelic language related websites, courses and resources:
<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/gaidhlig/gaidhlig.html>
- Ùlpan, <http://www.ulpan.co.uk>
- The Gaelic Book Council,
<http://gaelicbooks.org/index.php?route=common/home>
- <http://www.feisean.org/en/feisgoil-en/gaelic-learning/adult-learning/>



Visibility of Gaelic and other languages in Scotland: Some examples

BILINGUAL ROAD SIGNS AND STREET NAMES IN SCOTLAND





**TWO STREET SIGNS IN SCOTLAND:
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?
(WHY) IS IT IMPORTANT?**

GAELIC NAMES OF INSTITUTIONS



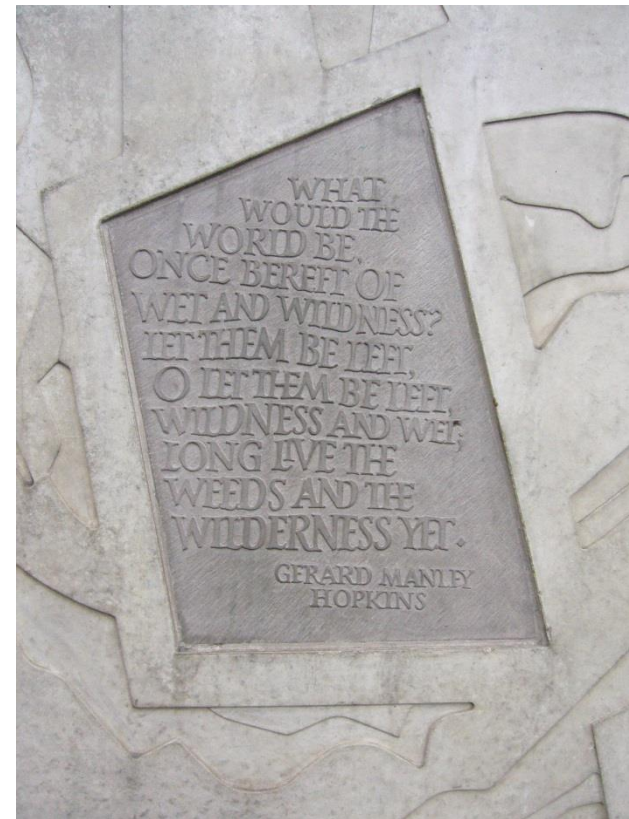
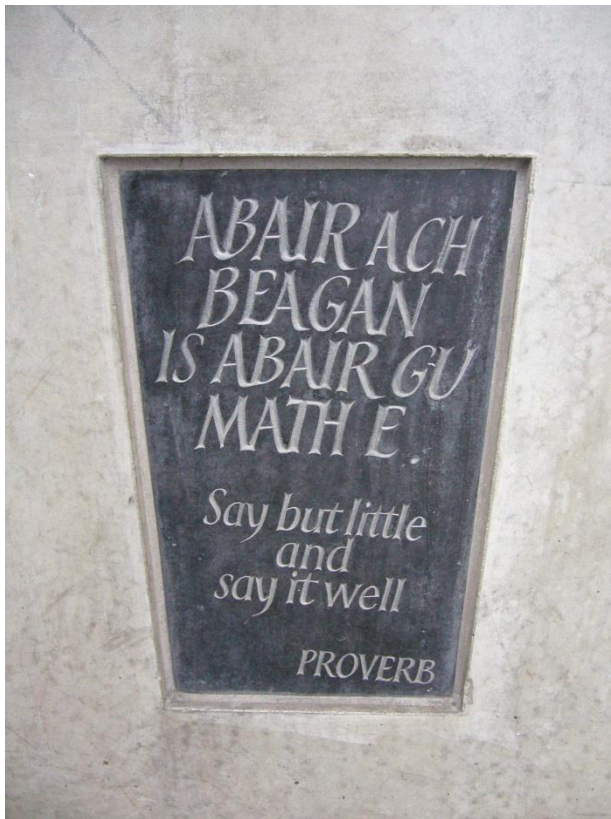
THREE LANGUAGES
AT A CHURCH IN
INVERNESS,
SCOTLAND.
GAELIC USED ONLY
IN SYMBOLIC
FUNCTION



INVISIBLE (BUT AUDIBLE) GAELIC



DECORATION AT THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT BUILDING IN EDINBURGH (PLATES MADE FROM INDIGENOUS SCOTTISH ROCKS).



SCOTS (AND ENGLISH) AS DECORATION IN NORTHERN SCOTLAND



GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL

IN THE INTERESTS OF HYGIENE AND SAFETY
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REQUESTED
TO REFRAIN FROM FEEDING THE BIRDS
AS FOOD DEBRIS ATTRACTS VERMIN

食物碎屑招惹老鼠,為安全及衛生起見,請勿餵雀鳥。

स्वास्थ्य व सुरक्षा को ध्यान में रखते हुये जनता से यह प्रार्थना की जाती है कि पक्षियों को उगाने के लिये भोजन आदि मत दें क्योंकि भोजन के बचे हुये डुब्ड़े बूहे आदि जीव जन्तुओं को निमन्त्रण देते हैं।

تحفظ اور حفظان صحت کے اصولوں کے پیش نظر عوام الناس سے التماس ہے کہ پرندوں کو کھانا ڈالنے سے اجتناب کریں کیونکہ بچے کھجے گلزے چوہوں کے پھیلاؤ کا باعث ہوتے ہیں۔

ਸਿਹਤ ਅਤੇ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਨੂੰ ਮੁਖ ਰਖਦਿਆਂ ਆਮ ਜਨਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਪੰਛੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਚੁਗਣ ਲਈ ਰੋਟੀ ਆਦਿ ਨਾ ਸੁੱਟੇ। ਬਚੀ ਖੁਚੀ ਰੋਟੀ ਕਾਰਣ ਚੂਹੇ ਆਦਿ ਆਉਣ ਲਗ ਪੈਂਦੇ ਹਨ।

T-SHIRTS PROMOTING GAELIC IN SCOTLAND

