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IRISH DIALECT CLASSIFICATION

Language code: ISO 639-1: ga, ISO 639-2: gle

Abstract

The Irish language is among the oldest vernaculars spoken in Europe, but Ireland's history and the language shift to English led to the almost complete demise of traditional Irish in Ireland. The current dialects areas – South, West and North – are the remnants of a much greater geographical distribution of Irish throughout the country. The major differences in pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary, which can be observed in Irish today, probably go back to the early classical period. The standard dialect survey of Irish is Heinrich Wagner's comprehensive atlas (1958-1964); there are also many individual studies which document the language in the early twentieth century. Southern Irish refers to a few areas in the southern province of Munster (Co. Kerry, Co. Waterford), Western Irish refers to forms of Irish spoken west of Galway and on the Aran Islands and Northern Irish is spoken in pockets of West Ulster (Co. Donegal).

Keywords: dialect classification, documentation, distinctive features, Irish

RANGÚ CANÚINTÍ NA GAEILGE

Teibí

Is teanga fíorstairiúil í an Ghaeilge agus ceann de na teangacha labhraithe is aosta san Eoraip. Mar gheall ar an t-aistriú teangan a thit i rith na staire chuaigh an Ghaeilge thraidisiúnta in éag beagnach go hiomlán. Níl sna réigiúin canúna nua-aoiseacha – sa ndeisceart, san iarthar agus sa dtuaisceart – ach iarsmaí de roinn níos forleithne sa dtír ar fad. Is as an aois chlasaiceach a bhaineann na príomhdhifríochtaí idir na nuachanúintí i dtaobh fhoghraíochta, ghramadaí agus fhoclóra. Is í an phríomhobair taighde sna canúintí ná an mór-atlas a theaglamaigh agus a d'fhoilsigh Heinrich Wagner idir 1958 agus 1964 ina aice lena staidéair aonánaigh a rinne taifead ar na canúintí i rith na fichiú haoise. Gaeilge na Mumhan a tugtar ar canúintí i gcontae Port Láirge agus Ciarraí, Gaeilge an Iarthair ar canúintí i gcontae na Gaillimhe agus ar Oileáin Árann, agus Gaeilge Tír Chonaill ar canúintí i gcontae nDún na Gall.

Eochairfhocail: aicmiú canúna, doiciméadú, saintréithe fóinéimeacha, an Ghaeilge