MODERN IRISH

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LANGUAGE

1. General

T. de Bhaldraithe, ‘Nótaí ar fhocail’, Éigse, 25:160–64, tackles the meaning and origin of the words *airmnecht, crioslach, daorach, fabhairne, fearacht, imirt, isteal, and praiséal, all of which he has taken from different sources. Id., ‘Focloir na Nua-Ghaeilge — forbairt agus fadhbanna’, Procs (Halifax), 203–11, gives a short description of the scope and range of the new Irish dictionary, of the considerable difficulties involved with many facets of it and of the efforts being made to resolve them. Id., ‘Varia iv’, Éiriú, 42:147–48, illustrates the durability of earthy idioms in Irish from early literary sources until present-day speech. J. de Clercq and P. Swiggers, ‘The Hibernian connection: Irish grammaticography in Louvain’, Studies in the History of the Language Sciences, 68, Diversions of Galway: Papers on the History of Linguistics, ed. Anders Ahlqvist, Amsterdam, Benjamins, 85–102, examines three grammars of Irish written in the 17th and 18th cs in Louvain, discussing in particular the different readership for which each was intended, which dictated the language of instruction used as well as the nature and scope of the work. A. Dooley, ‘An Irish manuscript in the Biblioteca Communale, Siena’, Éigse, 25:81–90, examines in detail a MS found in Siena which went unnoticed by Irish scholars and concludes that it was written by three separate hands, that it is a product of the late 17th or early 18th c., and that it hails from the South Tipperary and Butler area; details of the contents are listed. A.J. Hughes, ‘Roinnt leaganach a nGaeilge Thír Eoghain’, ib., 173–77, tackles the problem of the date and origin of iarann Phádraig ‘tongs’, meannán aeir ‘snipe’ and the place name Both Domhnaigh, all of which occur in sources for Tyrone Irish dating from this century. Í. Ní Dheirg, ‘“Glóir gan chabhair choigcríche?” Smaointe ar théarmaíocht na Gaeilge agus ar ról na nua-iasachtáí’, Teangeolas, 30–31:12–15, asserts that the creation of new terminology and the use of loanwords has always been a healthy feature of Irish but, with closer ties with the EC in the future, international rather than native terminology will be favoured. C. Ó Baoill, ‘Two Gaelic word-histories’, JCLin., 1:127–38, demonstrates how murlach, a Scottish Gaelic term for the ‘kingfish’, is translated as ‘kingfisher’ in Irish and Scottish dictionaries as a result of an original error in O’Reilly’s dictionary of 1817. A. Ó Corráin, ‘On certain modal and..
aspectual values of the future category in Irish’, *ib.*, 1–21, examines the future tense in languages generally and relates the various future formations in Irish to that study, demonstrating with numerous examples that the Irish future category is basically modal in origin. C. Ó Dochartaigh, ‘The Irish language’, Macaulay, *Celtic*, 11–99, introduces his description of the Irish language by presenting the historical and social perspective, outlining the historical and contemporary position and highlighting various features of linguistic differentiation. A detailed synchronic description of the language is given under the titles: syntax, structure of the phrase, morphology, sound system, and morphophonology. D. Ó Muiri, ‘Gender of monosyllabic nouns in modern Irish’, *Procs* (Halifax), 231–65, with the assistance of classified noun-tables, attempts to illustrate the predictability of gender of any given monosyllabic noun in modern Irish from the dictionary form alone. D. Ó Sé, ‘Verbal inflection in Modern Irish’, *Ériu*, 42: 61–81, using examples from the various Irish dialects, presents an overview of verbal inflection in Modern Irish, examining in particular the rules for dividing the verbal forms into roots, stems, and endings. This leads him to interesting generalizations about the morphology of the Modern Irish verb. E. M. Slotkin, ‘Two Irish literary manuscripts in the mid-west’, *Eigse*, 25: 56–80, details the history and contents of two 19th-c. MSS which were originally the property of the Holy Cross Fathers of Cincinnati; Breathnach was the name of the scribe of one of the MSS and the owner of the other. The material consists of Ossianic verse, romances, and miscellaneous poetry. S. Watson, ‘Filiocht Shéamais Dall Mhic Cuarta — nótaí teanga (Linguistic notes on Séamas Dall Mac Cuarta’s poetry)’, *Eighteenth-Century Ireland/Iris an Dá Chultúr*, 1991, no. 6: 77–91, examines the metres of the published poems of the Co. Meath poet Séamas Dall Mac Cuarta, who belongs to the postclassical period, to ascertain what light they shed on the poet’s dialect.

2. **Dialect Studies**

*Doctor Kirwan’s Irish Catechism*, ed. William J. Mahon, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Pangur Publications, 1991, xxxvii + 227 pp., edits and translates this popular work first published by T. Hughes c. 1830 but originally compiled in the previous century by Dr Kirwan. A detailed introduction and appendices are supplied with this book which is of particular interest to dialectologists. M. McKenna, ‘Conjugations of the verb in areas of East Ulster Irish: now you see it, now you don’t’, *JCLin.*, 1: 23–60, examines the notion of two verbal conjugations in the Irish of East Ulster to find that they often totally