

groups 9–13 and 13–19, from the ethnic groups identified as autochthonous Gibraltarians, Jewish, Indian and Moroccan. The informants were interviewed orally, questioned about their language usage and given reading and translation wordlists. Chapter 4 explores language attitudes and language choice. The author reports that while most Gibraltarians use more than one language in daily life, there is a generational shift towards greater use of English. Many informants use Spanish to their grandparents but English to their siblings, and a clear difference is found even between the two age groups under study here, with more English being spoken by the younger group and more English used to younger than to older siblings. The preference for English was most pronounced among the Jewish and Indian communities, with less English being used by the Moroccans, whose presence is the result of much more recent immigration and who are therefore less integrated. English was also found to dominate the informants' reading and television viewing habits, and contacts with Spain were found to be relatively limited. Chapters 5 and 6 present a phonetic analysis of the informants' pronunciation of English vowels and consonants respectively. While traditionally the English spoken in Gibraltar has been marked by Spanish-type vowel realizations, the study finds that the influence of Spanish is much less pronounced in the English of these younger informants. Their consonant realizations also show a move towards British norms; particularly interesting is the fact that these young informants use realizations such as a glottal stop for the /t/ phoneme and a labiodental or bilabial approximant for the phoneme /r/, which have no counterparts in Spanish but which seem to be imitations of pronunciations common in the UK.

In sum, the book provides various types of evidence pointing to a move among young Gibraltarians towards greater use of English and greater approximation to UK norms, and relates this trend to recent historical and political events, notably the closure of the border with Spain between 1969 and 1982. It is a clearly written, carefully presented study which offers much of interest to sociolinguists.

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WILLIAM LAMB, *Scottish Gaelic speech and writing: Variation in an endangered language*. Belfast: Cló Ollscoil na Banríona, 2008. Pp. 330. Pb \$48.00.

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This a quantitative analysis of a corpus of texts from eight different registers of Scottish Gaelic, an endangered language. Lamb describes how these registers

vary with regard to 63 syntactic, morphological, and lexical features. He presents a detailed grammatical description of how Scottish Gaelic is used in different contexts and evidence that despite being endangered, Scottish Gaelic still shows register variation similar to that found in more widely used languages such as English. Included as an appendix to the book is a detailed description of the phonology, morphology, and syntax of Scottish Gaelic. This grammar provides additional information on the linguistic features the author tagged in his corpus, and it also serves as a potentially important resource for anyone interested in studying or learning Scottish Gaelic.

The basic assumption that drives Lamb's work is that different registers will show systematic differences in the frequency of individual linguistic features. Thus, he selected eight different types of texts to analyze: conversations, radio interviews, sports reportage, traditional narratives, fiction, formal prose, news scripts, and popular writing. Of particular interest to Lamb are the differences between spoken and written registers. Because of this, Lamb compares the frequencies of the linguistic features in the spoken texts with the corresponding frequencies in the written texts in addition to comparing the findings for the individual registers.

Lamb's results are divided into three parts. The first is a description of the variation among the texts in terms of the information structure, clause types, morphosyntax, and the lexicon. For each feature analyzed within these categories, Lamb presents an overview of the linguistic form, the quantitative and statistical results for this feature in the different registers, and a comparison of the results with those described in previous works on similar registers in other languages. The second part of the analysis is an even more detailed description of noun phrases and their complexity in the different registers. This section includes such features as case marking, prepositional phrases, relative clauses, and adjectives. Finally, the third part of the analysis describes the identifying features of each of the eight registers. It is this section that will likely be the most useful and the most accessible to non-linguists who are interested in Scottish Gaelic.

Lamb determines that the eight registers he examined showed systematic variation in the frequencies of many of the different linguistic features he tagged. He also argues that his results are consistent with the findings of previous studies of register variation in other languages. This is an important finding in that Scottish Gaelic is endangered, and thus the findings dispute the idea that such a language would show a lack of variation in different contexts when compared to more widely spoken languages. Thus, this book will be of interest not just to researchers in corpus linguistics and Scottish Gaelic but to those who study endangered languages as well.

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