



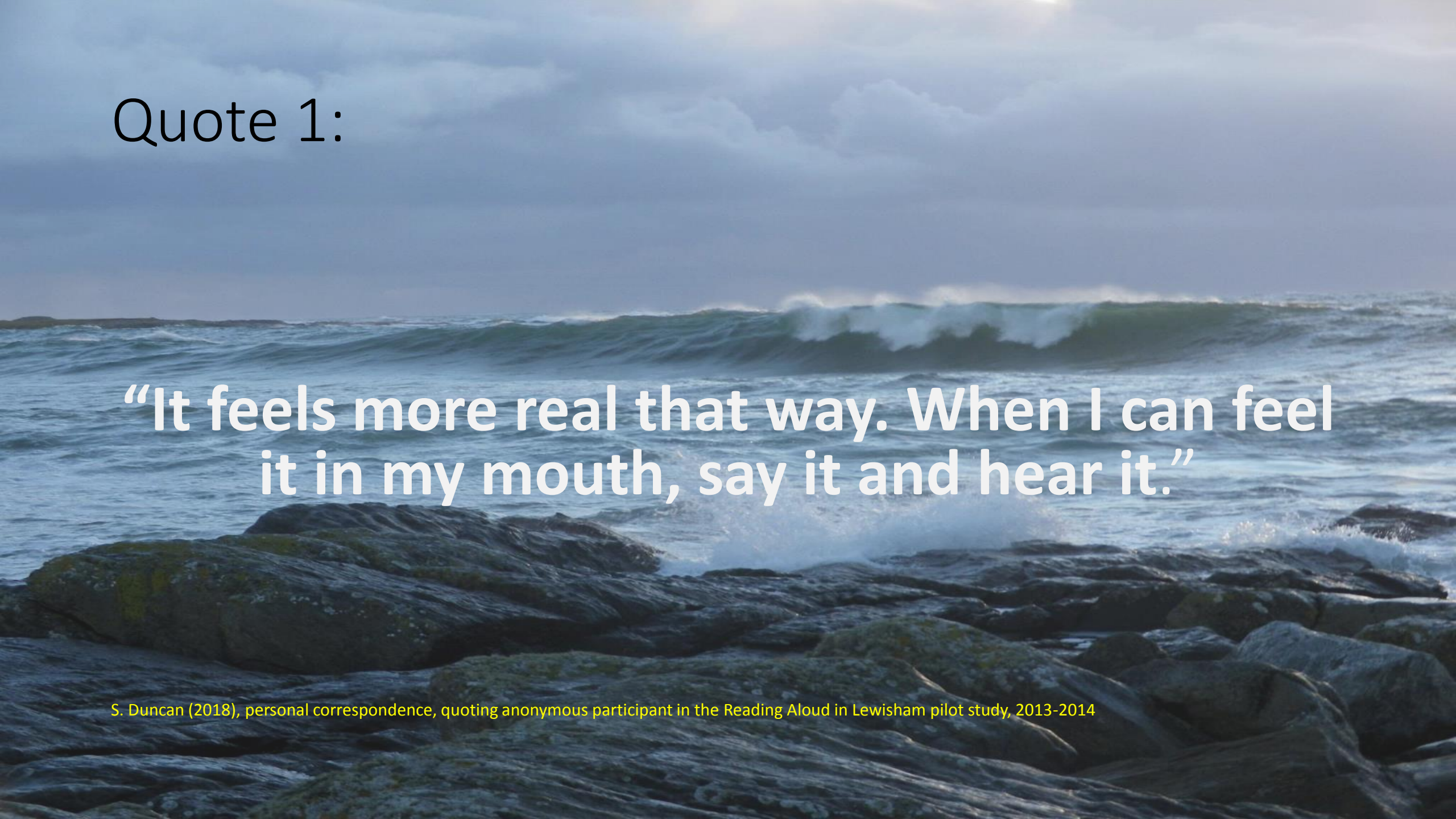
Reading Island Voices

Issues around the primacy of speech and the privileging of literacy, from a Hebridean viewpoint

Gordon Wells
Guthan nan Eilean/Island Voices

<https://guthan.wordpress.com/about>

The Reading Aloud in Britain Today (RABiT) Symposium
Everyday Reading: Explorations of Literacy and Oracy, 17th November 2018

The background image is a full-page photograph of a coastal scene. In the foreground, dark, jagged rocks are partially submerged in the water, with some green moss or algae visible. The ocean is turbulent, with white-capped waves breaking against the rocks and further out. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, with a hint of light breaking through near the horizon. The overall mood is somber and powerful.

Quote 1:

“It feels more real that way. When I can feel it in my mouth, say it and hear it.”

S. Duncan (2018), personal correspondence, quoting anonymous participant in the Reading Aloud in Lewisham pilot study, 2013-2014

Quote 2:

“Bidh sinn ga bruidhinn, ach cha do dh’ionnsaich sinn leughadh is sgrìobhadh. Ach an-diugh bidh a’ chlann a’ faighinn Gàidhlig san sgoil, agus mar sin tha iadsan nas fheàrr sa chànan na tha sinne.”

“We can speak it, but we didn’t learn reading and writing. But children today get Gaelic in school, so they’re better in the language than us.”

Quote 3:

“ANOTHER Gaelic learner presenting themselves as us. Joke. Sick of Gaelic learners. They’re not US. You just went to some evening class and are a TOTAL joke. You’re a bunch of hipsters that STOLE our language to get jobs and attention. You’re not US.”

The Gaelic Language – Numbers (1)



For Scotland as a whole, the proportion of the population aged 3 and over able to speak Gaelic was 1.1 per cent (58,000 people). The council areas with the highest proportions able to speak Gaelic were Na h-Eileanan Siar (52 per cent), Highland (5 per cent) and Argyll & Bute (4 per cent).

<http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/censusresults/release2a/StatsBulletin2A.pdf> Accessed August 2018

Gaelic speakers as a percentage of Scottish population



■ Non-Gaelic speaking ■ Gaelic speaking

Gaelic speakers as a percentage of Argyll and Bute population



■ Non-Gaelic speaking ■ Gaelic speaking

Gaelic speakers as a percentage of Highland population



■ Non-Gaelic speakers ■ Gaelic speakers

Gaelic speakers as a percentage of Outer Hebrides population

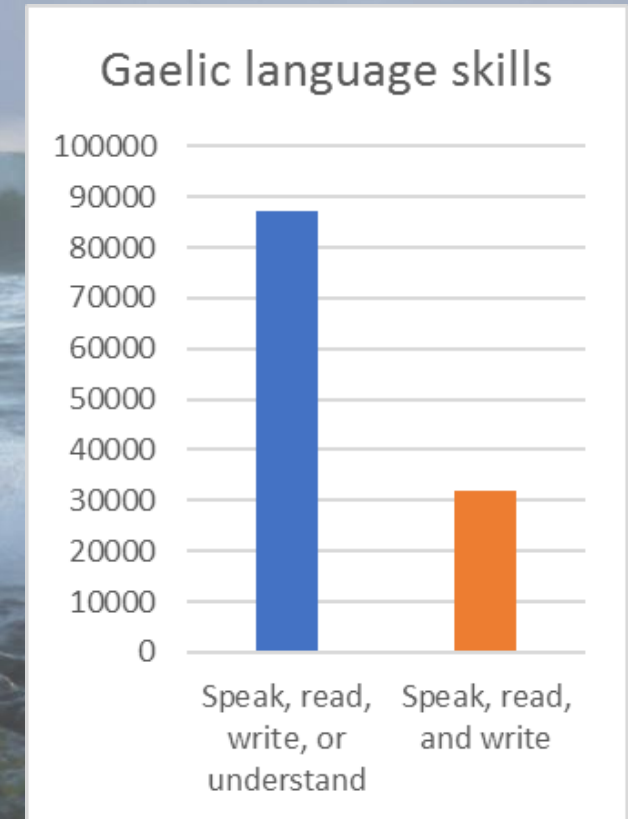


■ Non-Gaelic speakers ■ Gaelic speakers

The Gaelic Language – Numbers (2)

In 2011, the proportion of the population aged 3 and over in Scotland who could speak, read, write or understand Gaelic was 1.7 per cent (87,000). Within this group, the number of people who could speak, read and write Gaelic in 2011 was 32,000, 0.6 per cent of the population aged 3 and over.

<http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/censusresults/release2a/StatsBulletin2A.pdf>
Accessed August 2018



ISLAND VOICES – GUTHAN NAN EILEAN

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About

This website hosts pages of links to video and other materials in the Guthan nan Eilean/Island Voices Series, and carries news about the project. It is also a means of communicating ideas and suggestions from local and remote users, who may be teachers or learners of English or Gaelic. Comments are invited on any of the posts, and will be moderated before publication.

Over 150 videos in English and Gaelic can be accessed by clicking on any of the "Series One", "Series Two" or "Extras" tabs at the top of the page. These pages also give links to full transcripts for each clip, formatted as "Clìstore" units (thereby also granting one-click online dictionary access), as well as catalogues for each collection which list topic, level, and language content of the films. The "Playlists" tab gives access to "feature-length" compilations.

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- "Cearcall a' Chuain"

Documentaries and Interviews

<u>Peatcutting</u>	<u>Buain na Mònadh</u>
<i>Clilstore Unit 624</i>	<i>Clilstore Unit 724</i>
Interview: Peatcutter Archie Campbell (Process) <i>Clilstore Unit 625</i>	Agallamh: Eairdsidh Caimbeul (Buain) <i>Clilstore Unit 725</i>
Interview: Peatcutter Archie Campbell (Social practices) <i>Clilstore Unit 626</i>	Agallamh: Eairdsidh Caimbeul (Cleachdaidhean) <i>Clilstore Unit 726</i>

Other Languages

Kopanie torfu: Peatcutting in Polish

 23/04/2016

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Krótki film dokumentalny w języku polskim dla uczących się języka o kopaniu torfu w Uist.

Film aithriseach goirid ann am Pòlainnis airson luchd-ionnsachaidh mu dheidhinn buain na monadh ann an Uibhist.

Short Polish documentary for language learners about peatcutting in Uist.

While you watch and listen you can read a transcript with online dictionary access to every single word on this **Cilistore unit**: <http://multidict.net/cs/4130>

Short Stories

2. Sgeulachdan Thormoid



This collection of six Gaelic stories (plus an introduction) was created by Norman Maclean – Tormod MacGill-Eain. The recordings were made during visits to his house by Gordon Wells in October 2015. In the “links” column you can click on “Youtube” to go directly to the recording of the appropriate story. A “Clilstore” link will take you to a wordlinked transcript. You can click on any word to take you directly to an online dictionary to find its meaning.

Further Reading

Research/Reports

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In addition to pursuing practical community-based actions the project maintains a research and reporting perspective, particularly in relation to language learning, bilingualism, and languages and digital media.

The reports, articles, and other papers listed below have been produced in collaboration with a range of organisations or institutions with an interest in language research and development. Some focus on Island Voices specifically, while the others draw on the work of the project as part of a wider topic or debate of local or more general interest.

Perceptions of Gaelic Learning and Use in a Bilingual Island Community: an Exploratory Study (2011)	Full report here Am Pàipear summary here
ESOL in the Hebrides and Island Voices: “Hey, hang on a minute, tha mise bilingual!” (2012)	Chapter 12 (p153) in this book
Gaelic Digital Literacies in a Bilingual Community: a Sampling of Practices and Preferences (2013)	Full report here Am Pàipear summary here
CALL Support in Context: Contrasting Approaches in Irish and Scottish Gaelic (2014)	Full report here
Sharing Gaelic Voices: Peat-cutting in Polish, or Surfing in Sindhi? (2016)	Full report here
Saoghal Thormoid – Norman’s World: Synopses and Transcripts, and Foreword by Conchúr Ó Giollagàin (2017)	Full volume here

Guthan nan Eilean – Island Voices

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