Developing a corpus-based framework for Scottish Gaelic learning and assessment

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Brief:
- Design a framework linked to the CEFR and SCQF to “provide...a pathway from complete learner to fluency”
- Identify current course levels and align them to the framework
- Develop self-assessment tools
87,056 (1.7%) have some Gaelic knowledge
Gaelic in Scotland

~2,992 adult L2 users

- 45% aiming for C2
  (Taylor 2017)

- “The Eternal Intermediate”
  (McEwan-Fujita 2015)
**APPROACH**

Spoken corpus based

- 80 L2 users, 16 L1 users
- 3 communicative tasks, 3 experiments

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Objective proficiency measures + CEFR-based teacher assessment = Profiles of Gaelic skills at different CEFR levels
TASKS

Communicative tasks

- Informal conversation
- Narrative/Picture description
- Argument task

Experimental tasks

- Information gap for C-questions
- Verb-echo question elicitation
- Elicited Imitation
From Heaton, 1966 (Tavakoli & Foster 2008; Carty 2015)

Adapted from Milford, 2010
Tasks

Communicative tasks

- Informal conversation
- Narrative/Picture description
- Argument task

Experimental tasks

- Information gap for C-questions
- Verb-echo question elicitation
- Elicited Imitation
Discussed applicability of CEFR to Gaelic

Training based on the Manual for Relating Language Examinations to the CEFR

Practiced rating Gaelic performances
C O D I N G

Lexical diversity - D

Complexity
• Syntactic diversity (but PoS Tagger has a high error margin...)
• ML AS-unit
• SR

Accuracy
• Substantive verb/copula
• Tense and case

Fluency
• Infrequent pausing and repairs
  • 1 min extract of monologues analysed for speed, breakdown, and repair fluency
Rating

Marker: Nicola Carty
File: LT2_1.mp3

1. Listen to the embedded audio file

2. Please fill in as appropriate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Lower than A1 ▼</th>
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<td>Accuracy</td>
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<td>Fluency</td>
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<td>Interaction (if applicable)</td>
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| Overall level  | Lower than A1 ▼ |

How many times did you listen to this recording? 1 ▼

Additional comments:

Overall grade: Lower than A1 ▼

Additional Comments:

Submit
ONGOING AND UP NEXT

Ratings analysis

Coding

Develop profiles and align framework to SCQF

Colleagues at Aberdeen to carry out assessment on classes currently available

Potential for work on written Gaelic, new resources, and a language exam
Tapadh leibh