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Thomas W. Ihde
Nancy Stenson

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JCLL's mission, similar to that of NAACL, is to provide another forum in which teachers and applied linguists can contribute to the literature presently available on second language acquisition as well as increase communication among Celtic language teachers and researchers.

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"Inneal-Ciuil an Diabhail/ The Devil's Instrument": Popular Culture and the Gaelic Learner

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The accommodation of the artifacts of mass culture in Niall Górdan's 1996 article "An Giotár Dealain: Inneal-Ciuil an Diabhail" highlights the current state of the dialogue between traditionalism and modernity in contemporary Gaelic journalism. At the same time, Górdan's article exemplifies the pragmatic function of facilitating language acquisition as an established characteristic of Gaelic public discourse.

A language's ability to accommodate the ceaseless deluge of artifacts generated by popular culture is an indicator of that language's viability in the face of an ever-encroaching modernity. In the case of minority languages whose very survival is predicated to some degree upon a thoughtful response, if not outright resistance, to modernity, the acknowledgement of the mass culture in particular poses urgent challenges to the communication of linguistic identity, both within and without a given linguistic community. In this paper I shall deal with ways in which speakers of "heritage languages" adapt their traditional public discourse in an effort to accommodate the needs of learners from within a cultural mainstream in which native speakers participate, but from which they seek to differentiate themselves. In this situation, the traditionalism embodied in the heritage language ceases to be an anachronistic refuge from modernity, becoming instead a