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# Journal of Celtic Language Learning

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Muiris Ó Laoire  
Nancy Stenson

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## JOURNAL OF CELTIC LANGUAGE LEARNING

*Journal of Celtic Language Learning* is an international review for researchers and teachers of modern Celtic Languages. The official publication of the North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers, *JCLL* includes papers presented at the association's annual conference in addition to manuscripts submitted by Celtic language scholars world-wide. It is also a forum in which Celtic language teachers can share insights into methodology with their peers.

*JCLL's* mission, similar to that of NAACLT, 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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- ◇ All submissions will be refereed blindly by two anonymous readers.
- ◇ Comments from the referees will be forwarded to the authors together with the editors' decision regarding publishing after 15 September of the same year.

## INDEXES

Some of the articles published in the *Journal of Celtic Language Learning* are abstracted or indexed in *Language Teaching*, LLBA (*Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts*), RIE (*Resources in Education*), the Modern Language Association *International Bibliography*, and Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Éireann's *Selected Articles from Language Journals*.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES

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**DEMYTHOLOGISING CELTIC - CELTIC AS NON-EXOTIC COMPARED WITH OTHER LINGUISTIC SYSTEMS**

*Robert Orr*

Over the past few centuries the Celtic peoples and their languages have been subject to a great deal of fantastic theorising, which has led to all sorts of erroneous speculations. This paper is aimed at dispelling some of the myths surrounding the concept of *Celtic*, primarily from the point of view of linguistic material, with brief introductory references to literature and culture. It argues that *Celtic* is less exotic than is commonly supposed, and that one way of being aware of this is to keep one's eye on the linguistic structure of the Celtic languages.

**Introduction**

This paper is aimed at dispelling some of the myths surrounding the concept of "Celtic", primarily discussing Celtic linguistic material, with brief introductory references to literature and culture, and arguing that Celtic is less exotic than is commonly supposed, and is perhaps even underutilised as a source of data in certain areas of linguistic argumentation. Unless otherwise stated, then, the use of the term "Celtic" in this paper will be strictly linguistic.<sup>1</sup>

Over the past few centuries the Celtic peoples and their languages have been subject to a great deal of fantastic theorising, sometimes verging on myth. This may be linked to the fact that any parts of Europe which were formerly Celtic-speaking have not

<sup>1</sup> Fife (1993: 5) puts it thus: "The genetic criterion has switched focus to specifically linguistic features instead of populations or cultures." "That is the sense of 'Celtic' with which linguists are well acquainted and which appears to have a firm foundation in scientific evidence." Chapman (1992: 7-23), 70-75, and James (loc. cit) offer brief aspects of the linguistic issues.