

“The 2011 Census Results and (the Lack of) Language Planning in Wales”

by Robert J. Jones,
Associate Professor of Foreign Language and English, Fulton-
Montgomery Community College

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- There was a sense, however, that some areas of the heartlands would have lost speakers, while other areas would have gained some.

Census 2011 Hope and Crisis

Unfortunately, in many ways, the census was a woeful reality check.

By the numbers...

- Percentages:

1991: 18.7%

2001: 20.8%

2011: 19%

“Cyfrifiad 2011: Canlyniadau Cyntaf ar yr Iaith Gymraeg.” *Llywodraeth Cymru*. 2012. Web. 25 May 2013. <<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/population2012/121211/?skip=1&lang=cy>>

By the numbers...

- Total Numbers:
 - 1991: 508,000
 - 2001: 582,000
 - 2011: 562,000

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By the numbers...

- Nearly all local authorities lost Welsh speakers.
- Some small gains were made outside of the heartlands.
- Two local authorities, Camarthenshire and Ceredigion dropped below 50% for the first time.

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By the numbers...

- Ceredigion

2001: 52%

2011: 47.3%

- Carmarthenshire

2001: 50.3%

2011: 43.9%

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By the numbers...

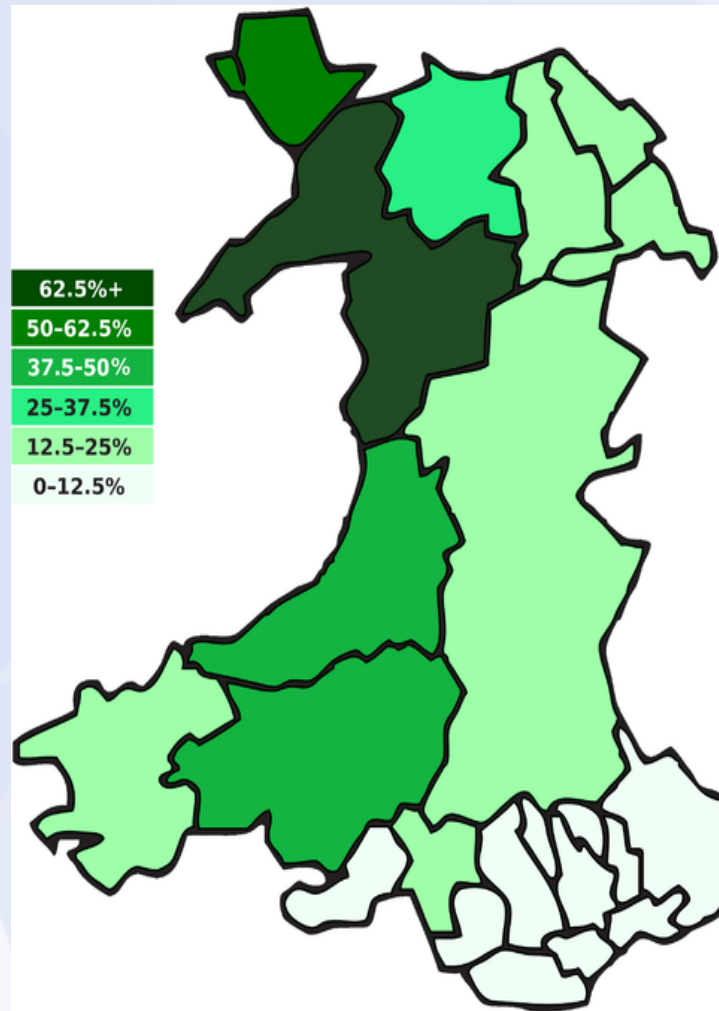


Fig. 1 Language Map of Wales. "Cymraeg." *Wikipedia*. 2013. Web. 25 May 2013.

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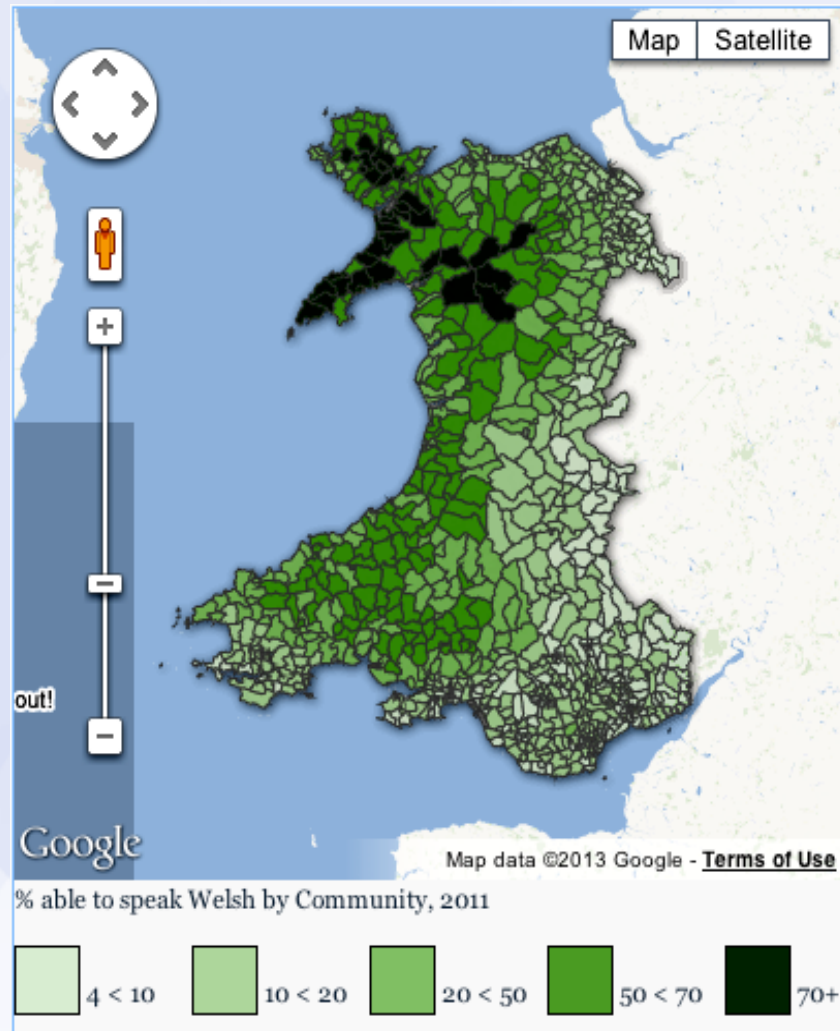


Fig. 2 Language Map of Wales by Community. “Cyfrifiad 2011: canlyniadau yn ôl cymuned.” *Comisiynydd y Gymraeg*. 2013. Web. 25 May 2013.

Major Problems for the Language

- In-movement

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- In-movement
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- Welsh-medium education (HUH?!)
- The Welsh Assembly Government (HUH?!)
- The Welsh People

Major Problems for the Language

- In-movement

About 27% of the Welsh population are born outside of Wales. Most from England (20%).

“2011 Census: Key Statistics for Wales, March 2011.” Office for National Statistics. 2012. Web. 25 May 2013. <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_290982.pdf>.

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Who are they, and why are they there?

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Why are they a problem?

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Of those born in Wales, 23.3% speak Welsh.

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Of those born in Wales, 23.3% speak Welsh.

In the four heartlands:

- Gwynedd 88.7% v. 65.4% total pop.

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- Anglesey 78.2% v. 57.2% total pop.
- Carmarthenshire 54% v. 43.9% total pop.
- Ceredigion 74.6% v. 47.3% total pop.

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Major Problems for the Language

- Out-movement

We know there are something like 150,000 Welsh speakers in England. That's 20% of all Welsh speakers and equivalent to 26% of those still in Wales.

“World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous People – United Kingdom: Welsh.” *Minority Rights Group International*. 2008. Web. 25 May 2013. <<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=topic&tocid=463af2212&toid=488f25df2&docid=49749c8cc&skip=0>>.

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And they leave for the same reasons many emigrants do: opportunity.

Unlike many other emigrants, they have a secret weapon!

Major Problems for the Language

They are bilingual!

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- It's been a great boon to the language, but also a bane.

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WHY?

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In the last decade it produced at a minimum 28,000 new speakers.

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According the yearly School Census in Wales, every year for the last 20 or so years there have been about 15,000 students who were both fluent in Welsh and spoke Welsh at home. Logic would dictate most of these students were in Welsh-medium schools.

“Adran 8: Y Gymraeg.” *Llywodraeth Cymru*. 2012. Excel File.

Major Problems for the Language

But wait, how can you know that?

By 2010 there were about 43,000 students enrolled in Welsh-medium schools...

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Major Problems for the Language

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By 2010 there were about 43,000 students enrolled in Welsh-medium schools...

Or, about 28,000 competent Welsh speakers who didn't begin life that way.

So, wait. It's worse, really?

Yes. Yes, it is.

So, wait. It's worse, really?

Yes. Yes, it is.

It means that the Welsh language didn't lose 20,000 speakers in the last decade: it lost closer to 50,000.

Language Planning: The Welsh Model

Gwyn Jones
Director of Policy and
Terminology

Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Sponsored by
Welsh Assembly Government



BWRDD YR IAITH
GYMRAEG • WELSH
LANGUAGE BOARD



Welsh Language Planning

Tends to be embodied in two arenas:

- The National Level (Welsh Language Acts, funding for Welsh-medium education, grants for “schemes”, etc.)
- The local level (people volunteering, working for schemes)

Welsh Language Planning

Tends to be disjointed:

- Money pot in Cardiff Bay v. confused woman from Derbyshire who's moved to Trefor.
- Lacks positive propaganda: those who don't speak Welsh don't know why they should.

Welsh Language Planning

Tends to be toothless:

- No “schemes” from the gov't to help engender entrepreneurship.
- No “schemes” from the gov't to help Welsh speakers stay in Wales.
- No “schemes” to entice Welsh speakers to stay.
- Welcomes not only retirees, but also those on gov't services from England.

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Whereas, according to the 2011 Census there are almost 350,000 people in England who state their primary nationality is Welsh.

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Whereas, according to the 2011 Census there are almost 350,000 people in England who state their primary nationality is Welsh.

And whereas, we know at least 150,000 people in England speak Welsh...

My Quixotic Notion: i.e. my whacky theory:

I expect, though I will never be able to prove, that at least the equivalent to $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ the current Welsh speaking population of Wales lives outside the country.

Works Cited

“2011 Census: Key Statistics for Wales, March 2011.” Office for National Statistics. 2012. Web. 25 May 2013. <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_290982.pdf>.

“Adran 8: Y Gymraeg.” *Llywodraeth Cymru*. 2012. Excel File.

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