



Using 'Speaking Irish/An Ghaeilge Bheo'  
– possibilities for teachers and learners.

---

Antain Mac Lochlainn & Siuán Ní Mhaonaigh



# ***Speaking Irish/An Ghaeilge Bheo***

---

- DVD - Interviews with 20 speakers
- Represents all major dialects
- Workbook with interview transcriptions, notes and activities on vocabulary building, grammar aspects of dialect and pronunciation, language awareness and culture
- Classroom activities for the teacher to download free of charge from the McGraw-Hill website.



# Language awareness

---

- Learners are directed and encouraged to be inquisitive about and notice such things as:
- The way the language works and patterns within the language
- The differences and similarities between the target language and languages they already know
- Socio-linguistic awareness e.g. the existence of dialect and the contrast between dialects and Standard Irish



# Language awareness

---

- How they themselves learn and their awareness and understanding of the language learning process
- The metalanguage of learning e.g. grammatical terminology



# Language awareness

---

*Number in English and Irish*

- A couple of drinks (plural)
- Cúpla deoch (singular)



# John Klapper: *Understanding and developing good practice:*

---

- 'Grammar tuition should seek to facilitate noticing and consciousness-raising. There is a role here for both explicit and non-explicit approaches, but discovery-based and learner-centred approaches too can be very effective in developing explicit knowledge of grammar; they are also the ones most consistent with theoretical insights into second language acquisition' (Klapper, 2006, p. 417).



## Example 1:

---

*English idiom in Irish*

Bhí mé cráite nuair a d'fhoghlaim mé faoin dóiteán (*I was upset when I learned about the fire*)



# Example 1

---

*Revised sentence*

Bhí mé cráite nuair a fuair mé amach [nuair chuala mé] faoin dóiteán





## Example 2:

---

*Asking learners to notice patterns*

'The noticing hypothesis' i.e. that one cannot take in certain aspects of language that have not been in some way 'noticed'.



## Example 2

---

*Verbal noun + noun in genitive*

- Ag léamh leabhair
- Ag foghlaim ceirde



## Example 2

---

*Possible generalization – verbal noun + noun  
& adjective in genitive case*

- Ag léamh leabhair mhaith
- Ag foghlaim ceirde deacra



## Example 2

---

*Correct structure – verbal noun + noun & adjective in nominative case*

- Ag léamh leabhar maith
- Ag foghlaim ceird dheacair



## Example 3

---

### *Borrowing of English emphasis*

- That's *my* book / Sin é ***mo*** leabhar
- That's not what he told me / Ní hé sin a dúirt sé ***liom***



## Example 3

---

*Correct use of unstressed emphatic suffixes*

- That's **my** book / Sin é mo leabharsa
- That's not what he told **me** / Ní hé sin a dúirt sé liomsa



## Example 4

---

### *Socio-linguistic awareness*

- English loanwords in Irish
- Lack of technical terminology
- Register



# Benefits of linguistic awareness

---

- A more fruitful use of time spent on private study, including greater facility in use of reference works such as grammars and dictionaries
- A greater ability to plan language learning to prioritize study of particular aspects of the target language





# Benefits of linguistic awareness

---

- Greater awareness of their own difficulties and how to solve them
- A greater ability to generalise from examples