

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An Ranger agus Black 47

Each week the West Highland Free Press publishes the text for Ruairidh 's "Letter to Gaelic Learners" on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal (103.5-105 FM). Broadcasts are as follows: 10.00 pm on Sunday, following the Gaelic Learners' programme 'Beag air Bheag', with a repeat at 10.30 pm on Wednesday. This is Litir 1,020. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 4.03 pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 716 corresponds to Litir 1,020. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir.

Am faca sibh riamh am film, *An Ranger?* Chaidh a dhèanamh ann an 2008 agus tha e ann an Gàidhlig na h-Èireann air fad. Gheibhear e air *YouTube*. Chan eil e ach deich mionaidean a dh'fhaid, agus saoilidh mi gu bheil e air a dhèanamh gu math. Tha fo-thiotalan Beurla air, ach do luchd-labhairt Gàidhlig na h-Alba, tha e furasta gu leòr a thuigsinn às aonais nam fo-thiotalan.

Tha am film mu dheidhinn saighdear Èireannach – Gàidheal à Conamara – a tha a' tilleadh dhachaigh, an dèidh a bhith thall thairis, ann an seirbheis na h-Ìmpireachd, fad bliadhna air fhichead. Nuair a ruigeas e a sheann dachaigh, chan eil mullach air. Chan eil sgeul air duine beò. Agus tha mucan a' fuireach anns an tobhta. **Tha an saighdear air a sgreamhachadh.**

Fhad 's a bha e air falbh, bha gort a' bhuntàta ann. Rinn sin sgrios air feadh taobh an iar na h-Èireann. Bha fuadaichean ann cuideachd. Thill ar caraid dhachaigh sa bhliadhna ochd ceud deug, caogad 's a ceithir (1854).

Tha e a' dol gu taigh co-ogha a mhàthar – am fear leis a bheil na mucan. Tha an co-ogha a' cur na coire airson na thachair air na Sasannaich – agus Albannach no dhà. Bha màthair an t-saighdeir air a fuadachadh às a dachaigh, agus chaochail i ann an taigh nam bochd.

Ach chan eil an saighdear a' gabhail ri leisgeul an duine eile. Tha e a' toirt sgian mhòr a-mach – *khukuri* a fhuair e ann an Àisia. Tha e a' dol a dh'fhaighinn dìoghaltas air an fheadhainn a rinn sgrios air a theaghlach. Airson a' chòrr, feumaidh sibh am film fhaicinn!

'S dòcha gum bi feadhainn agaibh ag ràdh – ist, a Ruairidh, tha thu a' bruidhinn air a' film *Black 47* a nochd air sgàileanan mòra an t-saoghail an-uiridh. Agus bhiodh sibh ceart. Bha *Black 47* stèidhichte air *An Ranger* – ged a tha e mòran nas fhaide, agus a' toirt a-steach murt is marbhadh nach eil a' nochdadh sa film ghoirid Ghaeilge. Agus tha e a' tachairt seachd bliadhna roimhe, ann an ochd ceud deug, ceathrad 's a seachd (1847).

Nam biodh sibh a' coimhead airson film a tha làn àbhachdais is fealla-dhà, cha mholainn *Black 47* dhuibh. Tha e gu math dorch, dòrainneach. Ach **tha e air a dheagh dhèanamh**. Agus thug e toileachas dhomh na bh' ann de Ghàidhlig na h-Èireann ann.

Cha chreid mi gun robh blas Chonamara aig a h-uile duine a bha a' bruidhinn 'as Gaeilge' ach, a dh'aindeoin sin, saoilidh mi gun do rinn an cleasaiche a chluich an caractar aig meadhan a' ghnothaich – an seann saighdear, O Fiannaidhe – sioba mhath

dheth. Cha robh facal Gaeilge aige mus do thòisich e air a' phròiseact. Chan eil e Èireannach, gu dearbh, ach Astràilianach. 'S e Seumas Frecheville an t-ainm a th' air.

An àite a bhith a' toirt a' chreidsinn gun robh Beurla aig a h-uile duine – à la Braveheart – bha aon character na eadar-theangair a thug taic do shaighdearan Sasannach a bha an tòir air O Fiannaidhe. Agus leig sin le muinntir Chonamara a bhith a' bruidhinn nan cànan fhèin sa film. Dh'obraich sin gu math agus tha mi an dòchas – an ath thuras a bhios film eachdraidheil stèidhichte air Gàidhealtachd na h-Alba – gum bi a h-àite aig a' Ghàidhlig mar bu chòir.

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Faclan na Litreach: fo-thiotalan: *subtitles*; thall thairis: *overseas*; fuadaichean: *clearances*; dòrainneach: *harrowing*; Astràilianach: *Australian*; eadar-theangair: *interpreter, translator*; O Fiannaidhe: *Feeney*.

Abairtean na Litreach: fad bliadhna thar fhichead: *for 21 years*; nuair a ruigeas e a sheann dachaigh, chan eil mullach air: *when he reaches his old home, it is roofless*; chan eil sgeul air duine beò: *there is no sign of a living person*; tha mucan a' fuireach anns an tobhta: *pigs are living in the ruins*; fhad 's a bha e air falbh, bha gort a' bhuntàta ann: *while he was away, the potato famine occurred*; tha an co-ogha a' cur na coire airson na thachair air na Sasannaich: *the cousin blames the English for what happened*; bha màthair an t-saighdeir air a fuadachadh às a dachaigh, agus chaochail i ann an taigh nam bochd: *the soldier's mother was cleared from her home, and she died in the poorhouse*; nam biodh sibh a' coimhead airson film a tha làn àbhachdais is fealla-dhà, cha mholainn X: *if you were looking for a film that is full of humour and fun, I wouldn't recommend X*; thug e toileachas dhomh na bh' ann de Ghàidhlig na h-Èireann ann: *it pleased me how much Irish Gaelic was in it*; saoilidh mi gun do rinn an cleasaiche a chluich an character aig meadhan a' ghnòthaich sioba mhath: *I reckon the actor that played the character at the heart of the affair did a good job*; cha robh facal Gaeilge aige mus do thòisich e air a' phròiseact: *he didn't speak a word of Irish Gaelic before he started on the project*; an àite a bhith a' toirt a' chreidsinn gun robh Beurla aig a h-uile duine: *instead of pretending that everybody spoke English*; a bha an tòir air X: *who were pursuing X*; leig sin le muinntir Chonamara a bhith a' bruidhinn nan cànan fhèin: *this allowed the people of Connemara to speak in their own language*; dh'obraich sin gu math: *that worked well*; an ath thuras a bhios film eachdraidheil stèidhichte air Gàidhealtachd na h-Alba: *the next time there is a historical film based in the Highlands of Scotland*; gum bi a h-àite aig a' Ghàidhlig mar bu chòir: *that Gaelic will have its place as it should*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **tha e air a dheagh dhèanamh:** *it is well made. This is a development of tha e air a dhèanamh, and an alternative to tha e air a dhèanamh gu math. Here's another example: chaidh a dheagh thogail 'he was raised well'; chaidh a dheagh sgrìobhadh 'it was well written'.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: **Tha an saighdear air a sgreamhachadh:** *the soldier is sickened.*

Tha "Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh" air a maoinachadh le MG ALBA