

AG29: Agallamh le Caitlin Nic a' Ghobhainn: Ag Ionnsachadh Gàidhlig

Interview with Caitlin Smith: Learning Gaelic

Presenter: Seumas Dòmhnallach (James MacDonald)



SEUMAS:

Còmhla rinn an-dràsta tha Caitlin Nic a' Ghobhainn às Inbhir Nis, tè òg a th' air a bhith ann am fòghlam Gàidhlig bhon a' chiad dhol a-mach. A Chaitlin, dè a' chiad cuimhne a th' agad air Gàidhlig ma-thà? Ciamar a thòisich d' fhòghlam ann an Gàidhlig?

CAITLIN:

Chuir mo phàrantan mi fhìn agus mo phiuthar a-steach gu fòghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a chionn 's gu robh Gàidhlig na mo theaghlach. Bha mo sheanair ga bhruidhinn, is tha esan à Geàrrloch agus cha robh cothrom aig mo mhàthair Gàidhlig a dhèanamh san sgoil 's mar sin, bha i ag iarraidh gun cumadh sinne oirnn Gàidhlig anns an teaghlach. Agus chaidh sinn gu Bun-sgoil a' Mheadhain ann an Inbhir Nis agus an uair sin chaidh sinn gu Acadamaidh Allt a' Mhuilinn, agus tha mi air Gàidhlig a dhèanamh an sin suas gu Sàr Àrd-Ìre.

SEUMAS:

Bheil thu toilichte gun do chuir do phàrantan gu fòghlam Gàidhlig thu?

CAITLIN:

O tha, oir 's e pàirt de mo chultar a th' ann is tha mi a' faireachdainn nas dlùithe ri mo chultar agus ri mo dhùthaich, a chionn 's gur e cànan na Gàidhealtachd a th' ann agus gun urrainn dhòmhsa a ràdh gum b' urrainn dhomh Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn, so tha mi toilichte gu bheil mi ...

SEUMAS:

Dè an aois aig an robh thu nuair a mhothaich thu gu robh ceangal aige ri do chultar?

JAMES:

With us now is Caitlin Smith from Inverness, a young person who has been in Gaelic-medium education from the outset. Caitlin, what is your first memory of Gaelic, then? How did your education in Gaelic begin?

CAITLIN:

My parents enrolled me and my sister in Gaelic-medium education because we had Gaelic in the family. My grandfather spoke it, and he comes from Gairloch and my mother didn't have the opportunity to take Gaelic in school so she wanted us to continue Gaelic within the family. And we went to Central Primary School in Inverness and then went to Millburn Academy, and I took Gaelic there to Advanced Higher Level.

JAMES:

Are you pleased that your parents enrolled you in Gaelic-medium education?

CAITLIN:

Oh, yes, because it's part of my culture and I feel that I'm closer to my culture and to my country, because it is the language of the Highlands and because I can say that I speak Gaelic, so I'm pleased that I can speak it.

JAMES:

How old were you when you realised it was connected with your culture?

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CAITLIN:

Chanainn ... 's e nuair a bha mi mu dheich bliadhna a dh' aois, a chionn 's tha mi glè mheasail air ceòl agus nuair a thòisich mi a' seinn sa Ghàidhlig, 's e sin nuair a mhothaich mi gu robh ceangal mòr agam ri cultar na h-Alba agus na Gàidhealtachd a chionn 's gur e Gàidhlig cultar agus cànan na Gàidhealtachd.

SEUMAS:

Chaidh thu tro fhoghlam na sgoile, cho-dhùin thu cumail ort le fòghlam Gàidhlig. Dè a tha thu a' dèanamh aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig?

CAITLIN:

Tha mi a' dèanamh Gàidhlig agus Conaltradh an-dràsta, agus bidh mi a' dèanamh na modalan Na Meadhanan, is tha mi an dùil obair na meadhanan a dhèanamh san am ri teachd agus 's dòcha ag obair air an TBh no an rèidio anns a' Ghàidhlig, ach chì sinn.

SEUMAS:

Dè na rudan air a bheil cuimhne agad a thug dùbhlann dhut? Dè na rudan a bu dorra dhut ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig?

CAITLIN:

Uill, nuair a bha mi a' fàs suas agus a bha againn ri obair dachaidh a dhèanamh is chan eil mo mhàthair no m' athair a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig, so bha e car doirbh ma bha mi steigte, ach chuir sinn suas ris a chionn 's bha teaghlach agam a bha ga bhruidhinn, so 's urrainn dhomh dìreach fònadh thuca agus cuideachd, bha mo phiuthar a' dèanamh Gàidhlig cuideachd, so b' urrainn dhise gam chuideachadh agus mise an aon rud. Yeah, chanainn gur e a bhith a' fàs suas mar dìreach fhathast a bhith ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig agus nuair a bha mi steigte, cha robh really ... Bha e car doirbh, ach tha e nas fhasa a-nis.

CAITLIN:

I'd say it was when I was around ten years of age, because I really love music and when I began to sing in Gaelic, that's when I realised that I had a strong connection with the culture of Scotland and the Highlands because the culture and language of the Highlands is Gaelic.

JAMES:

You completed your school education and decided to continue in Gaelic education. What are you studying at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig?

CAITLIN:

I'm currently studying Gaelic and Communication, and I'm going to study the Media modules, and I plan to work in the media in future and perhaps work in Gaelic TV or radio, but we'll see.

JAMES:

What things do you remember that posed challenges for you? What was most difficult for you about learning Gaelic?

CAITLIN:

Well, when I was growing up and we had to do homework, and neither my mother nor my father spoke Gaelic. So it was difficult if I got stuck, but we put up with it because I had family members who spoke it so I could phone them and also, my sister was doing Gaelic too, so she could help me and vice versa. Yeah, I'd say growing up and just learning Gaelic and when I got stuck, there wasn't really ... It was quite difficult, but it's easier now.

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SEUMAS:

Dè cho mòr sa bha e na chuideachadh dhut gu robh do phiuthar cuideachd a' dol tro fhòghlam Gàidhlig aig an aon àm?

CAITLIN:

A chionn 's gu robh ise a' dol tron an fhoghlaim cuideachd cha robh mi leam fhìn, agus mar an cuideachadh a thug i dhomh agus an cuideachadh a thug mise dhi cuideachd chanainn gur e sin an aobhar ... Bha e ... Bha e nas fhasa dhòmhsa.

SEUMAS:

Bhiodh caraidean agad, tha mi a' creidsinn, aig nach robh Gàidhlig. Dè a' bheachd a bh' acasan ort?

CAITLIN:

O, uill, bha iad an còmhnaidh mar, "O, an can thu seo sa Ghàidhlig?" is, "Dè tha seo sa Ghàidhlig?" agus bha e gu math èibhinn a chionn 's bha iad a' coimhead air gur e rud "cool" a bh' ann agus gu robh sinn a' bruidhinn dà chànan agus bha iad a' coimhead air mar gum b' e rud math a bh' ann, agus fhathast, tha iad a' dèanamh sin.

SEUMAS:

'S ciamar a bha sin a' còrdadh riutsa? An robh thu moiteil asad fhèin gu robh Gàidhlig agad?

CAITLIN:

Bha, agus tha mi fhathast, a chionn 's gun urrainn dhomh a ràdh gum b' urrainn dhomh dà chànan a bhruidhinn, agus, dìreach, tha mi glè thoilichte gu bheil mi a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig a chionn 's gur e pàirt dhen chultar againn a th' ann.

JAMES:

How much did it help you that your sister was going through Gaelic-medium education at the same time?

CAITLIN:

Because she was going through the educational system too I wasn't alone, and the help she gave me and the help I gave her I'd say that was why ... It was ... It was easier for me.

JAMES:

You'd have had friends, I suppose, who didn't speak Gaelic. What did they think of you?

CAITLIN:

Oh, well, they were always like, "Oh, will you say this in Gaelic?" and, "What's this in Gaelic?" and it was very funny because they looked on it as something cool and that we spoke two languages and they looked on that as being a good thing, and they still do that.

JAMES:

And how did you like that? Were you proud that you could speak Gaelic?

CAITLIN:

Yes, and I still am, because I can say that I can speak two languages and, just, I'm very glad that I can speak Gaelic because it's part of our culture.

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SEUMAS:

Chaitlin, tapadh leatsa.

CAITLIN:

Tapadh leibh.

JAMES:

Caitlin, thank you.

CAITLIN:

Thank you.