



PARTE

Partitivity in European Languages

Diachronic, lexicographical and corpus perspectives
on some Irish Gaelic partitives

Dóra Pődör

Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary

30 June 2023

STRUCTURE OF THE TALK

1. Introduction
2. Data sources
3. Expressing the degree of language knowledge
4. Body parts with *cuid* ('part, portion')
5. Personal numeral in a partitive structure
6. Conclusion
7. Possibilities for further research

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. General introductions

- The speaker's background and motivation
- General view of the structures to be discussed:
 - partitive in a broad sense of the word;
 - part-whole relationships;
 - different grammatical structures
- Does not cover all partitives

1.2 Irish (Irish Gaelic)

- A Celtic language; Indo-European language family
- First official language of the Republic of Ireland
- One of the 24 official languages of the European Union
- Relatively small number of native speakers.
- Speakers are scattered in officially designated/recognized Irish-speaking areas (*Gaeltacht* areas).
- 3 major dialects, several subdialects; disconnected locations; no dialect continuum.
- 2022 census data: 20,261 daily users of Irish in the Gaeltacht areas

1.3 Research Gap and Aim of the Study

- Irish: not as well researched as English or some other European languages
- Lack of detailed exploration of Irish partitives:
 - Bayda, Victor: ‘The Possessive Construction with *cuid* ‘part’’. (2018)
 - Kane, Frances: *The Fine Structure of the Irish NP*. PhD Thesis, Ulster University, 2015.
- This talk: based on a forthcoming paper which discusses diachronic, lexicographical, and corpus aspects of certain partitive structures in Irish Gaelic. (Here: lexicographical and corpus aspects)

1.4 Structures to be Covered

- A) Expressing the degree of language knowledge
- B) Body parts with *cuid* ('part, portion')
- C) Personal numeral in a partitive structure

NOT an aim: to argue for the categorization of the structures discussed as partitive or pseudo-partitive (e.g. Bayda's argument that the *cuid* possessive construction is a pseudo-partitive one (2018: 52) is accepted).

Focus: to study the variation that is present in these structures in contemporary usage.

2. Data Sources

Dictionaries and

the Corpus of Contemporary Irish

2.1 *Corpus of Contemporary Irish*

(<https://www.gaois.ie/>)

- Irish-language texts published in the 21st century onwards.
- Contains 36.1 million words.
- Consists of sources like newspapers, magazines, journals, and more (mostly prose).
- Developed by the Gaois research group, part of Dublin City University.
- Not all the texts were written by native speakers.
- A fairly simple research tool – two types of search mode: ‘The phrase as is’ + ‘Broad search’.
- Not possible to disambiguate homonyms.



Browser tabs: Corpus of Contemporary Irish | X

Address bar: https://www.gaois.ie/en/corpora/monolingual/

Browser icons: Home, Back, Forward, Refresh, Stop, Print, Star, Mail, Download, Extensions, Notifications, Settings, Full Screen, Close

- CORPORA & TERMINOLOGY DATABASES
- Corpus of Contemporary Irish
- Parallel English-Irish Corpus of Legislation
- Corpus of Irish for Lexicography
- Terminology
- CORPUS OF CONTEMPORARY IRISH
- Data sharing
- About the corpus search

Search for a word or phrase in Irish

Search mode

- The phrase as is
- Broad search

Corpus of Contemporary Irish

The Corpus of Contemporary Irish is a monolingual collection of Irish-language texts in digital format. It consists of edited texts which have been published from the beginning of the 21st century onwards. The corpus currently includes texts from *ainm.ie*, *Beo!*, *Cló Iar-Chonnacht*, *Cois Life*, *Comhar*, *COMHARÓg*, *COMHARtaighde*, *Éabhlóid*, *Feasta*, *Irisleabhar Mhá Nuad*, *The Irish Times*, *Leabhar Breac*, *LeabhairCOMHAR*, *Léachtaí Cholm Cille*, *Léann Teanga: An Reiviú*, *Cló Mhaigh Eo*, *Meon Eile*, *NÓS*, *Nuacht Raidió na Gaeltachta*, *Nuacht RTÉ*, *Scáthán*, *Seachtain*, *Studia Hibernica*, *TEANGA: The Journal of the Irish Association for Applied Linguistics*, *Tuairisc.ie* and *An tUltach*. It contains c.36.1 million words.

The corpus was used as an internal terminological resource by Gaois, Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge for some time but was made freely available to the public in 2016. Gaois is very grateful to the publishers and copyright holders who have given permission to use their material.

The search interface is very simple. There is a specific search ('This phrase as is') and a broad search. Results can be filtered according to collection in the bar to the right.

We are expanding the content and improving the functionality of the corpus over time. We greatly appreciate feedback from our users and we are particularly interested in hearing from copyright holders who have digital material in Irish that would be suitable for the scope of this corpus. We can be

Blog

DCU
Oliver Chathair
Bhiale Atha Cliath
Dublin City University



'mórán Fraincise' — Corpus of C X

https://www.gaois.ie/en/corpora/monolingual/?Query=mórán+Fraincise&SearchMode=exact&PerPage=50

CORPORA & TERMINOLOGY DATABASES

- Corpus of Contemporary Irish **5**
- Parallel English-Irish Corpus of Legislation
- Corpus of Irish for Lexicography
- Terminology
- CORPUS OF CONTEMPORARY IRISH
- Data sharing
- About the corpus search

Search for a word or phrase in Irish

mórán Fraincise 🔍

Search mode

The phrase as is Broad search

5 results in 5 documents << 1 / 1 >>

#495891

In Toronto, cathair Bhéarla, ní raibh mórán Fraincise le cloisteáil ach bhí sí go fóill le feiceáil i ngach áit.

Mórtas teanga mhuintir Québec: Neart le foghlaim ag na Gaeil – Katie McGreal
Date: 22 September 2015

#2003352

Bhí siad ar na chéad tíortha a chuir ionadaithe rialtais chun na Buiséile nach raibh mórán Fraincise acu.

'Is beag polaiteoir Francach a chuir i gcoinne réim an Bhéarla san AE'

#2003382

Bhí siad ar na chéad tíortha a chuir ionadaithe rialtais chun na Buiséile nach raibh mórán

Blog

DCU
Dublin City University

FILTER RESULTS

Collections

- All collections
- NÓS (3)
- The Irish Times (2)

FILTER

2.2 Dictionaries

(freely accessible)

2.2.1 Foras na Gaeilge's online *New English-Irish Dictionary*

(NEID)

(focloir.ie)

- Since 2013
- More than 48,000 entries and more than 140,000 senses.
- Can be used as a corpus for searches.



french - Translation to Irish Gaelic X +

https://www.foclóir.ie/en/dictionary/ei/French 150%

Home Browse Dictionary Tools About FAQ Accessibility Our App Book Education

Gaeilge English

English > Irish

Search

Advanced Search
 English-Irish Dictionary (1959)
 Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla (1977)



New English-Irish Dictionary



eNEID widgets

Similar words: [drench](#) · [trench](#) · [wrench](#) · [bench](#) · [branch](#) · [brunch](#) · [clench](#) · [crunch](#) · [finch](#)

French

1 *NOUN LING*

Fraincis *fem2* **CMU**

- he speaks French [tá Fraincis aige](#)
- they're speaking French [tá siad ag labhairt Fraincise](#), [tá siad ag labhairt i bhFraincis](#)
- do you know any French? [an bhfuil aon Fhraincis agat?](#)
- how do you say 'Ireland' in French? [cén chaoi a ndeirtear 'Éire' i bhFraincis?](#)
- what's the French for 'food'? [cad é an Fhraincis ar 'bia'?](#)
- say that in French [abair é sin i bhFraincis](#)
- a film in French [scannán Fraincise](#)

Browse index

- [freight car](#)
- [freight train](#)
- [freighted](#)
- [freighter](#)
- [freightliner](#)
- [French](#)
- [French bean](#)
- [French bread](#)
- [French Canadian](#)
- [French fries](#)
- [French fry](#)



fraincise

fraincise is a grammatical form of: [Fraincis](#) »

Reverse Search - NB This is an **English-Irish** dictionary. [Further information...](#)

[French](#) » [Fraincise](#)

Related Entries

[francophone](#) »
[Frainciseoir, cainteoir](#)
[Fraincise](#)

Phrases and Examples in other entries

- [accented](#) » his French is heavily accented tá blas láidir ar a chuid Fraincise
- [bunk](#) » he bunked French class chuaigh sé ag múitseáil ón rang Fraincise
- [bunk](#) » he bunked French class níor bhac sé leis an rang Fraincise

- [fragment](#)
- [fragmentary](#)
- [fragmentation](#)
- [fragrance](#)
- [fragrant](#)
- [frail](#)
- [frailty](#)
- [frame](#)
- [frame house](#)
- [frame of mind](#)
- [frame of reference](#)



2.2 Dictionaries

2.2.2 Ó Dónaill's *Irish-English Dictionary (Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla, FGB, 1977)*.

Digitized at <https://www.teanglann.ie/en>

Concise dictionary; no information about the number of headwords, senses, etc.



Home

New English-Irish Dictionary »

About ▼

Gaeilge

English

Fraicis



Search for a word in Irish or English.



DICTIONARY AND LANGUAGE
LIBRARY



Similar words: Francis · aincis · frainc · fraincín · aircis



Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla

Ó Dónaill, 1977



An Foclóir Beag

Ó Dónaill & Ua Maoileoin, 1991



English-Irish Dictionary

de Bhaldraithe, 1959



Grammar



Pronunciation

Start A B C D E **F** G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

EXACT MATCHES IN FOCLÓIR GAEILGE-BÉARLA

Fraicis, *f.* (*gs.* ~*e*). *Ling.* French.

fraighleach

frailic

fraimís

Frainc

frainceáil

frainciam

fraincín

Fraicis

2.2 Dictionaries

2.2.3 *Electronic Dictionary of the Irish Language (eDIL)*

A digital historical dictionary of the Irish language; covers the period from c. 700 to c. 1700 (<https://dil.ie/>); without dating.

Originally: printed



Home

Search ▾

Browse

Bibliography

Help

Archive ▾

About

Contact

fraingcis

Cite this: eDIL s.v. fraingcis or dil.ie/24239

n f. **the French language**: focail Fraingcise, **Keat.** ii 944 . i bhFraingcis, 945 . as Fraincis do chualaidh sé ... dá innsin é *he heard it told in French* (of a romance) **Flower Cat.** 353 (<24 P 9, A.D. 1651).

Cookie Policy



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



dicti**n**aryportal.eu

Discussion of the Structures

3. Structure A – The structure describing the degree of knowledge of a language

- Irish Gaelic has several words expressing quantity or amount: *a lán, mórán, neart, go leor* ('a lot, much, many'), *beagán* ('a little'), *roinnt* ('some'), *tuilleadh* ('more').
- Rule: These are nouns or behave like nouns; are followed by the gen. sg. (uncountable nouns) or the gen. Pl. (countable nouns).

Example 1

(1) *Tá roinnt leabhar aige*
be.SUBST some book.GEN.PL at.him

‘He has some books.’

Literally ‘Is/Are (substantive verb) some books at him.’

Example 2

(2) *tuilleadh eolais*

more information.GEN.SG.

'more/additional information'

Example 3

(3) *Tá* *beagán* *Fraincise* *agam*

be.SUBST little French.GEN at.me

‘I have (= I know) a little French.’

Literally: ‘Is/Are (substantive verb) a little of French
at me.’

Example 4 (compare with 3)

(4) *Tá* *Fraincis* *agam.*

be.SUBST French.NOM.SG at.me

‘I have (= I know) French.’

Literally: ‘Is (substantive verb) a little of French at me.’

Research question

- Genitive case-form is on the decline in all dialects (Ua Súilleabháin, 1995: 492, Ó hUiginn, 1995: 565, Hughes, 1995: 630-631, or Péterváry et al., 2014: 36).
- Lexicographical and corpus data for the use of the gen. sg. of the noun denoting a language when expressing a degree of knowledge?

Example 5

(*NEID* s.v. “poor”)

(5) ‘they have a poor grasp of Spanish’ *níl* *mórán* *Spáinnise* *acu*

be.SUBST.NEG. a lot Spanish.GEN.SG... at.them

Literally: ‘There is not a lot of Spanish at them.’

Few examples in the *Corpus of Contemporary Irish*

Examples:

- *roinnt Breatnaise/Gearmáinise/Iodáilise/Spáinnise*
(some Welsh/German/Italian/Spanish) (1 ex. each)
- *roinnt Fraincise* (some French) (2 exx.)
- *mórán Breatnaise/Spáinnise* (a lot of Welsh/Spanish) (1 ex. each)
- *mórán Fraincise* (a lot of French) (3 exx.)
- *beagán Gearmáinise/Iodáilise* (a little German/Italian) (1 ex. each)
- *beagán Breatnaise* (a little Welsh) (3 exx.)

Example 6

(6) *Bhí Fraincis líofa aige agus roinnt Gearmáinise agus Breatnaise.* (#1136424)⁸

<i>Bhí</i>	<i>Fraincis</i>	<i>líofa</i>	<i>aige</i>	<i>agus</i>	<i>roinnt</i>	<i>Gearmáinise</i>
.be.SUBST.Past	French.NOM.SG.	fluent	at.him	and	some	German.GEN.SG.
<i>agus</i>	<i>Breatnaise</i>					
and	Welsh.GEN.SG.					

‘He had fluent French and knew some German and Welsh.’

Literally: ‘Was French fluent at him and some of German and some of Welsh.’

Observations

- Most language-denoting nouns end in *-is/ais* and belong to the second declension genitive singular *-ise/aise*.
 - Example: *Spáinnise* (Spanish) becomes *Spáinnise* (genitive singular).
- Exceptions: *Gaeilge* (Irish/Gaelic) and *Béarla* (English).
- Coordinated genitives are possible (ex. 6).
- No exx. with the nom. form; use of genitive singular of the second noun is still the norm in this type of construction (written language).

4. Structure B: Body parts with *cuid* (‘part, portion’)

Example 7

(7) *a cuid gruaige*

her part hair.GEN.SG

‘her hair’

Lit. ‘her part of hair’

Corpus research by Victor Bayda (2016/2018)

- Used *Nua-Chorpas na hÉireann* / The New Corpus for Ireland (NCÉ)
 - Subcorpus of data from native speakers
- Examined the use of some mass nouns with the bare pronouns *a* ‘his’, *a* ‘her’, *a* ‘their’ and their use with the same pronouns + *cuid*

E.g.

a gruaig – ‘her hair’ as opposed to

a cuid gruaige – ‘her part/portion of hair’

Bayda's conclusions:

- “The use of *cuid* with mass nouns is highly preferred, whereas with plurals less so.” (Bayda, 2018: 44-45).

(Research: not restricted to nouns denoting body parts)

- “plural nouns denoting objects coming in pairs (usually inalienable possessions like body parts) are hardly ever used with *cuid*” (2018: 45)
- “The pseudo-partitive nature of the construction means that *cuid* expresses the idea of the AMOUNT of the possessum which is non-specific, quantifying over a type of objects, unlike partitive constructions which quantify over a set.” (2018: 52).

Research questions

1. Occurrence of **possessive pronoun + *cuid* + body part** AND of **possessive pronoun + body part** in the *Corpus of Contemporary Irish*? (E.g. with pair nouns like ‘eye’, ‘ear’, ‘hand’, etc.?)
2. Frequency of occurrence of the two structures?
3. What influences variation?

Differences from Bayda’s research: different corpus; all the possessive pronouns were considered.

Lexicographical data in *NEID*

- Examples of possessive pronoun + *cuid* + noun:
 - With more than 100 different nouns; ranging from concrete to abstract; various lexical fields
- Nine different body part nouns in *NEID*:: *fiacail* (tooth), *fuil* (blood), *gruaig* (hair), *ionga* (nail), *ladhar* (toe), *lámh* (hand, arm), *méar* (finger), *scamhóg* (lungs), *súil* (eye)

Example 8

(8) ‘they transfused his blood’

rinne *siad* *fuilaidriú* *ar* *a* *chuid*¹⁰ *folá*
did.PAST they blood transfusion on his part blood.GEN.SG.

Lit. ‘Did they blood transfusion on his part of blood.’

(*NEID* s.v. “transfuse”)

Example 9

┘
(9) ‘she has chestnut hair’

<i>tá</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>cuid</i>	<i>gruaige</i>	<i>donnrua</i>
be.SUBST.PRES.	her	part	hair.GEN.SG.	chestnut

Lit. ‘Is her part of hair chestnut.’

(*NEID* s.v. “chestnut”)

Example 10

(10) ‘she clipped her nails’

bhearr sí a cuid ingne

clip.PAST she her part nail.GEN.PL.

Lit. ‘Clipped she her part of nails.’

(*NEID* s.v. “clip”)

Comparison of the examples in *NEID*

Possessive pronoun + *cuid* + body part in *NEID*
(C = countable, U = uncountable, P = pair nouns)

hair (186) (U)
tooth (33) (C)
nail (18) (C)
eye (12) (P)
blood (8) (U)
finger (4) (C)
lung (3) (C)
hand/arm (2) (P)
toe (1) (C)

Corpus data

6 more body parts were added:

cluas 'ear' (P)

cnámh 'bone' (C)

cos 'leg, foot' (P)

croí 'heart' (C)

gualainn 'shoulder' (P)

glúin 'knee' (P)

Structures with all the possessive pronouns were searched for.

Corpus data for body part nouns

BODY PART	POSS. PRON. + CUID/CHUID/GCUID + BODY PART	POSS. PRON. + BODY PART (NOM. PL. IF COUNTABLE)	POSS. PRON. + 'TWO' + BODY PART	EXAMPLE IN NEID with cuid
<i>Gruaig</i> 'hair'	508 (= 69%)	232 (= 31%)	not applicable	YES
<i>Fuil</i> 'blood'	99 (= 61%)	64 (= 39%)	not applicable	YES
<i>Fiacail</i> 'tooth'	130 (= 61%)	84 (= 39%)	not applicable	YES
<i>longa</i> 'nail'	27 (= 37%)	46 (= 63%)	not applicable	YES
<i>Ladhar</i> 'toe'	4 (= 22%)	14 (= 78%)	not applicable	YES
<i>Cnámh</i> 'bone'	9 (= 9%)	92 (= 91%)	not applicable	NO
<i>Scamhóg</i> 'lung'	7 (= 9%)	74 (= 91%)	not applicable	YES
<i>Lámh</i> 'hand, arm'	89 (= 6%)	1104 (= 73%)	312 (= 21%)	YES
<i>Súil</i> 'eye'	194 (= 6%)	2769 (= 86%)	275 (= 8%)	YES
<i>Cluas</i> 'ear'	20 (= 5%)	324 (= 85%)	38 (= 10%)	NO
<i>Méar</i> 'finger'	17 (= 5%)	301 (= 95%)	not applicable	YES
<i>Cos</i> 'leg, foot'	31 (= 2%)	1191 (= 87%)	147 (= 11%)	NO
<i>Glúin</i> 'knee'	9 (= 2%)	= 415 (= 86%)	57 (= 12%)	NO
<i>Gualainn</i> 'shoulder'	7 (= 2%)	385 (= 96%)	8 (= 2%)	NO
<i>Croí</i> 'heart'	2 (= 2%)	98 (= 98%)	not applicable	NO

Limitations

- Prepositions combined possessive pronouns not considered
(extra time)
- Homonymy issues with plural forms
- Dialectal variation in noun forms

Analysis of the Results

1. More body parts can appear in the construction with *cuid* than the nine given in NEID.
2. The frequency of structures with **possessive pronoun + *cuid* + body part** and **pronoun + body part** varies; *NEID* does not fully correspond to the corpus data
3. Three nouns appear more frequently with *cuid* than without it: *gruaig* ‘hair’, *fuil* ‘blood’, and *fiacail* ‘tooth’ (at least 60%) > ncountable nouns (*gruaig*, *fuil*) involve uncertain quantity, while *fiacail* (countable) represents variable numbers.

Analysis of the Results (continued)

4. *ionga* ('nail') and *ladhar* ('toe') also have relatively high occurrence percentages with *cuid* (37% + 22%) (more certainty than for *fiacail*)
5. *Méar* ('finger') has a low percentage (5%) (greater visibility and certainty)
6. Bayda's research shows similar findings for *gruaig* and *fuil*, but with lower token numbers.
7. Pair nouns (*cluas, cos, glúin, lámh, súil*) DO occur with *cuid*, although their frequency is low (bw 2 and 6%).

Analysis of the Results (continued)

The frequency of the use of *cuid* with body parts seems to depend on the certainty in the speakers' mind about the quantity/amount of the body part (countability, visibility).

Example 11

(11) *Scrúdaíodh a cuid súl, a cuid fiacla, a cuid ingne, a cluasa, a dhá láimh.* (#393709)¹⁶

<i>Scrúdaíodh</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>cuid</i>	<i>súl,</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>cuid</i>			
examine.PAST.PASS.	her	part	eye.GEN.PL.	her	part			
<i>fiac</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>cuid</i>	<i>ingne,</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>cluasa,</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>dhá</i>	
toothGEN.PL.	her	part	nail.GEN.PL.	her	ear.N.PL.	her	two	
<i>láimh.</i>								
hand.N.SG. ¹⁷								

‘Her eyes, her teeth, her nails, her ears, her two hands were examined.’

Lit. ‘Were examined her part of eyes, her part of teeth, her part of nails, her ears, her two hands.’

5. Structure C - Personal numeral in a partitive structure

personal numerals: for counting people

cardinals: for counting things or animals

Set of personal numerals

duine 'one person'

beirt 'two people'

triúr 'three people'

ceathrar 'four people'

cúigear 'five people'

seisear 'six people'

seachtar 'seven people'

ochtar 'eight people'

naonúr 'nine people'

deichniúr 'ten people'

dháréag 'twelve people'

Grammatical features of personal numerals

- 1 + 2 are or had originally been simple nouns; 3-10 are derived from cardinals + the noun "*fer*" (man) (Thurneysen 1980: 243)
- Behave as nouns morphologically and syntactically
- Have grammatical gender and are declined based on noun class (nom. sing., gen. sing., nom. pl., gen. pl.) (but: 12 - *dháréag* - only nom. sing. and gen. sing.; < contracted form of *dhá fhear dhéag* (twelve men))
- Can stand alone or be followed by a noun in gen. pl.
- Whole - part relationship expressed in some phrases with personal numerals
- Sometimes the personal numerals can also refer to objects (!)

The use of personal numerals 1: Examples 12 and 13

(12) triúr

‘three people/persons’

(13) triúr cailíní three girl.GEN.PL ‘three girls’

Lit. ‘three people/persons of girls’

Expressing ‘one of us’, ‘two of us’, ‘one of you’, ‘two of you’, etc.

NEID: two equivalents for phrases such as ‘X of us’:

a) with the 1st person plural prepositional pronoun form of the preposition *ag* ‘at’;

b) with the 1st person plural prepositional pronoun form of the preposition *de* ‘from’.

Ó Dónaill’s *Irish-English Dictionary (FGB)* does name this type of usage as a partitive one under sense (4) in the entry for *ag* (*FGB* s.v. “ag”), and under sense (2 f) in the entry for *de* (*FGB* s.v. “de”).

The use of personal numerals 2: Example 14 and 15

(14) *triúr againn*

three at.us

'three of us'

or

(15) *triúr dínn*

three from.us

'three of us'

Research question:

Frequency of the occurrence of the two structures in the *Corpus of Contemporary Irish*?

Frequency of usage

Personal numeral	againn	dínn	agaibh	díbh	acu	díobh
<i>duine 'one person'</i>	478 (94%)	29 (6%)	71 (93%)	5 (7%)	2116 (83%)	437 (17%)
<i>beirt, dís 'two people'</i>	447 (99.8%)	1 (0.2%)	109 (100%)	0 (0%)	2049 (98%)	44 (2%)
<i>triúr 'three people'</i>	143 (100%)	0 (0%)	10 (100%)	0 (0%)	416 (96%)	18 (4%)
<i>ceathrar 'four people'</i>	53 (100%)	0 (0%)	6 (86%)	1 (14%)	120 (92%)	10 (8%)
<i>cúigear 'five people'</i>	36 (97%)	1 (3%)	0	0	92 (84%)	18 (16%)
<i>seisear 'six people'</i>	29 (100%)	0 (0%)	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	32 (71%)	13 (29%)
<i>mórsheisear 'seven people'</i>	2 (100%)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>seachtar 'seven people'</i>	15 (100%)	0 (0%)	0	0	45 (86.5%)	7 (13.5%)
<i>ochtar 'eight people'</i>	10 (100%)	0	0	0	44 (88%)	6 (12%)
<i>naonúr 'nine people'</i>	1 (100%)	0	0	0	20 (80%)	5 (20%)
<i>deichniúr 'ten people'</i>	5 (83%)	1 (17%)	0	0	44 (88%)	6 (12%)
<i>dháréag 'twelve people'</i>	2 (67%)	1 (33%)	0	0	12 (92%)	1 (8%)
Total:	1221 (97%)	33 (3%)	199 (97%)	6 (3%)	4990 (90%)	565 (10%)

Analysis of the data

- Prevalence of the construction with the preposition *ag* ‘at’.
- Variation seems to depend on the grammatical category of **person**: the use of the prepositional pronominal forms of *ag* are more overwhelming in the case of the 1st and 2nd pl. (97%) than in the 3rd pl. (90%).
- Further research needed to determine factors influencing variation (the ‘of them’ construction can also refer to objects!).

6. Conclusion

Findings:

- The gen. sg. of nouns denoting a language in a structure indicating the degree of knowledge does not show variation in the Corpus of Contemporary Irish, in spite of the general scholarly consensus that the use of the gen. sg. of nouns in general is in decline
- Detailed data for the variation between the structures possessive pronoun + *cuid* + body part AND possessive pronoun + body part were presented, and it was argued that The frequency of the use of *cuid* with body parts seems to depend on the certainty in the speakers' mind about the quantity/amount of the body part (countability, visibility).
- Detailed data for the variation between the structures corresponding to English 'one of us', 'two of us', 'one of you', 'two of you' were presented from the Corpus of Contemporary Irish, which showed the overwhelming use of the construction with *ag*.

7. Possibilities for further research

- a) Exploration of further structures expressing quantity (expansion on type A) (also in the *New Corpus for Ireland*)
- b) Further exploration into the use of *cuid* with nouns other than the ones denoting body parts
- c) Further exploration into the use of *cuid* with body parts (use of the *New Corpus for Ireland*, examination of text types, native vs. non-native speakers, dialects)
- d) Further exploration into the use of personal numerals with nouns and with the prepositional pronominal forms of *ag* and *de* (use of the *New Corpus for Ireland*, examination of text types, native vs. non-native speakers, dialects)

Thank you for your attention!

References (Dictionaries, corpora, and sources of corpus examples)

‘About’ <https://www.focloir.ie/en/page/about.html>

‘About Gaois’, <https://www.gaois.ie/en/about/info/>

Corpus of Contemporary Irish <https://www.gaois.ie/en/corpora/monolingual/>

eDIL (Electronic Dictionary of the Irish Language) (<https://dil.ie/>)

FGB – see Ó Dónaill, Niall

[NEID – see New English-Irish Dictionary](#)

New English-Irish Dictionary, Foras na Gaeilge, 2013- <https://www.focloir.ie/>

Nua-Chorpas na hÉireann / The New Corpus for Ireland (NCÉ) (<https://www.sketchengine.eu/the-new-corpus-for-ireland/>)

Ó Dónaill, Niall, ed.: *Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla* [Irish-English Dictionary], Baile Átha Cliath [Dublin]: An Gúm, 1977. <https://www.teanglann.ie/en/fgb>

References (Dictionary entries)

“ag” <https://www.teanglann.ie/en/fgb/ag> [accessed 25 May 2023]

“chestnut” <https://www.focloir.ie/ga/dictionary/ei/chestnut> [accessed on 15 May 2023]

“clip” <https://www.focloir.ie/en/dictionary/ei/clip> [accessed on 15 May 2023]

“de” <https://www.teanglann.ie/en/fgb/de> [accessed 25 May 2023]

“fraingcis” <https://dil.ie/24239> [accessed on 5 June 2023]

“poor” <https://www.focloir.ie/en/dictionary/ei/poor> [accessed on 5 June 2023]

“transfuse” <https://www.focloir.ie/en/dictionary/ei/transfuse> [accessed on 20 May 2023]

“triúr” <https://www.teanglann.ie/en/fgb/triúr> [accessed 25 May 2023]

“two” <https://www.focloir.ie/en/dictionary/ei/two> [accessed 25 May 2023]

References (Secondary sources)

Bayda, Victor: ‘The Possessive Construction with *cuid* ‘part’’. In: Aled Llion Jones and Maxim Fomin (eds.): ‘*Y geissaw chwedleu*’: *Proceedings of the Seventh International Colloquium of Societas Celto-Slavica, Studia Celto-Slavica 8*, School of Welsh, Bangor University Bangor, 2018, pp. 41-55.

‘Education and Irish Language’. In: Census of Population 2022 – Summary Results, CSO statistical publication, 30 May 2023, 11am.

<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-cpsr/censusofpopulation2022-summaryresults/educationandirishlanguage/>

[accessed on 3 June 2023]

Hughes, Art: ‘Gaeilge Uladh’ [Ulster Irish]. In: McCone, Kim et al. (eds.): *Stair na Gaeilge*. [The History of Gaelic.] Coláiste Phádraig, Maigh Nuad, 1994, pp. 611-660.

Kane, Frances: *The Fine Structure of the Irish NP*. PhD Thesis, Ulster University, 2015.

References (Secondary sources continued)

Ó hUiginn, Ruairí: ‘Gaeilge Chonnacht.’ [Connacht Irish] In: McCone, Kim et al. (eds.): *Stair na Gaeilge*. [The History of Gaelic.] Coláiste Phádraig, Maigh Nuad, 1994, pp. 539-609.

Péterváry, Tamás – Ó Curnáin, Brian – Ó Giollagáin, Conchúr – Sheahan, Jerome: *Iniúchadh ar an gCumas Dátheangach. An sealbhú teanga i measc ghlúin óg na Gaeltachta. / Analysis of Bilingual Competence. Language acquisition among young people in the Gaeltacht*. NUI Galway and An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta, 2014.

Thurneysen, Rudolf: *A Grammar of Old Irish*. The Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 1980 (1st ed.: 1946).

Ua Súilleabháin, Seán: ‘Gaeilge na Mumhan.’ [Munster Irish] In: McCone, Kim et al. (eds.): *Stair na Gaeilge*. [The History of Gaelic.] Coláiste Phádraig, Maigh Nuad, 1994, pp. 479-538.