

1 Caibideal a Ceathair. Foclóirín agus Gramadach

I want to translate the curses/derrogatory phrases better from now on. Too many dictionaries translate interjections and curses as phrases like “By Jove, old chap”, or “A most scurrilous ruffian”. Since Nóra, Gobnait, Peig, Síle and Cáit are all between 8-13, these translations don’t seem to me to be the real English equivalents of these phrases. Help from other members of the forum in suggesting translations would be greatly appreciated.

1.1 Foclóirín:

Bodhar: Deaf or annoyed. This is the adjective related to the verb **bodhram** discussed in Caibideal a dó. Although it is not the verbal adjective of that verb (which is **bodhraithe**). **Táim bodhar ag an dtigh** so I’m tired of this house.

Ní shásódh an saol mé gan ... The world wouldn’t satisfy me without... = I wouldn’t be happy unless/without...

Thoir, Thiar, Thall: Used with in the following phrase with a noun and **ag** for the agent. **Ní fhéadfadh sí dhá fhocal a labhairt gan Éamann óg thoir thiar thall aici** She couldn’t say two words without Éamonn this (lit. east), Éamonn that (lit. west) and Éamonn the other (lit. yonder).

Áitím:

1. I prove.

2. (+ ar) I persuade. **D’áitimh sí orm.** She persuaded me. Note the unusual past tense **Áitimh**.

Righneas: Slowness or delay. **Do dheineas righneas.** I delayed. **Do chuireas righneas ar thógadh an tí** I delayed the construction of the house.

Ní dóil: A very short form of **Ní doigh liom**. The usual short form is **Ní dó’ liom**.

Aire a thabhairt do rud: To take care of something. **Do thugas aire dom’ driotháir nuair a bhí sé óg** I took care of my little brother when he was young.

Níor chás duit: Literally, *That wouldn’t be a case for you*. Less literally, *That’d be no trouble for you*. **Níor chás duit an seomra so a ghlanadh** It’d (Lit. That’d) be no trouble for you to clean this room. The meaning is always ironic/sarcastic.

A ghrá dhil: My love/My dear.

Mo ghrá í sin: That’s a good girl!, Good girl!

Sceimhle:

1. A raid or skirmish.

2. Raw terror. **Sceimhle ort!** Terror on you! (Up yours, roughly(?))

Ochón: Yikes!, Oh dear!

A dhe: Oh!

’On daighe: A short form of **Don daighe!**, a variant of **An daighe!** meaning *Really!* **An**

daighe, being the Dagda, the old Celtic god. Sometimes seen as **Andaidh**.

Ar neoin: Of course.

A short form of **Ar ndóigh**. Can also appear with a broad n, **Ar noin**. **Ar ndóigh** can be **Dar ndóigh**, which itself has a short form **Dar noin**, but I have not seen **Dar neoin**. **Ar noin** was Peadar Ua Laoghaire's typical way of writing the phrase, but **Dar ndóigh** is the most common today.

Gíocs ná míocs: Cheep or chirp. **Ná bíodh gíocs ná míocs asat**. Don't let a peep out of you!

Deisbhéalach: Witty. (Nice mouthed, literally)

Fallaing (b.): A cloak, specifically a short cloak that stops around your shoes, without a hood.

Giob: A morsel. **Níl giob!** Not a morsel! or Not a thing!

Clúdaím:

1. I cover.
2. I preserve.

Allas: Sweat. **Tá allas orm**. I sweat. **Allas an bháis** The sweat coming from fear.

Scaird (b.): A terrified look.

Scáth:

1. A shadow.
2. Nervousness.

Gaire/Gaireacht: Nearness or proximity. There are a lot of ways to form abstract nouns in Irish by modifying the adjective, typically by using:

1. The feminine genitive form of the adjective.
2. Adding -(e)as to the adjective.
3. Adding -(e)acht to the adjective.

Sometimes two or three of the above are valid for the same adjective.

Iniúchaim (+ ar rud): I examine (something) very closely and thoroughly or I scrutinise (something).

Baladh: A smell. **Plural:** Balaithe.

Caor:

1. A berry.
2. A bolt of lightning.

Mullach: Summit.

Éaghmais (b.): Absence. Commonly used in the phrases:

Dá éaghmais: Other than or besides.

Dá éaghmais sin: In spite of that...

Marcaím: I ride. **Marcaíocht ar chapall**. Riding a horse. Although, commonly, if it isn't an

animal the **ar** is dropped and the genitive with the article is used.

Mearbhall: Confusion.

Léimim: I jump.

There are two verbal nouns **Léimt**, jumping and **Léimreach** jumping around. **Léimreach** is feminine.

Cíordhubh: Jet black.

Léim-lúith: Moving/Galloping with great energy.

Ar a léim-lúith

1. Galloping
2. Full of energy.

Méaracán: A thimble. **Fear na méaracán:** A man who operates a three thimble game, the game where you place a ball under one of three cups and shuffle them around. **Méaracán** is in the genitive plural here.

Seargaim: I waste or I dry up. **Seargaim mé féin** I push myself to my limits.

I bhfeighil: Looking after something. **Táim i bhfeighil an tí.** I'm looking after the house.

Bramach: A colt. **Braimín** A young colt. **Braimín** is not a common word today.

Siosrach (b.): Old verbal noun for neighing. **Seitreach** is the word most commonly used today.

Lúfar: Agile, athletic.

Mustar: Showing off (noun). **Dúbailt (b.):** Double. **Genitive: Dúbalta.**

Com:

1. Recess in a mountain.
2. Waist.

Seang: Slender.

Dea-chroiceann: Smooth-skinned.

Coilgsheasamh: Standing straight up. **Táim im' choilgsheasamh.** I am standing straight up.

Ar tosach: At the lead.

De dhroim: Over (for a motion), i.e. I jumped over. **Droim** is the dative of **Drom:** back.

Cuir cos i rud: To catch your foot on something. **Do chuireas mo chos ins an claí.** I caught my foot on the fence.

Scoiltim: I split or I cleave. Commonly pronounced **Scoilim** today.

1.2 Gramadach:

Feminine verbal nouns in the dative. This chapter has examples of feminine verbal nouns like *Léimreach* and *Siosrach*. Since these are nouns they can be placed in the dative and so we get **Tá na capaill ag siosraigh** The horses are at a neighing = The horses are neighing.

Siúd/Súd This is the form of **úd** that comes after inflected prepositions **Ba chuma leis siúd** or object pronouns **é siúd**. **úd** itself means “that”, but not in the same way as **san/sin**. It’s “that” in the sense of something mentioned earlier. **Dúirt fear liom gur chóir dom é a dhéanamh ach ba chuma leis siúd cathain a dheineas é.** A man said to me that I should do it, but that (previously mentioned) man didn’t care when I did it.

Sometimes the thing being recalled might not be explicitly mentioned, in which case you might translate it as “yonder”. **An oíche úd nuair a bhuaileamair le chéile.** That/Yonder night when we met each other.

Míle punt Míle takes the genitive plural. Often identical to the nominative singular.

Diarmaid: Diarmaid has the unusual genitive of **Diarmada**, its vocative is **A Dhiarmaid**.