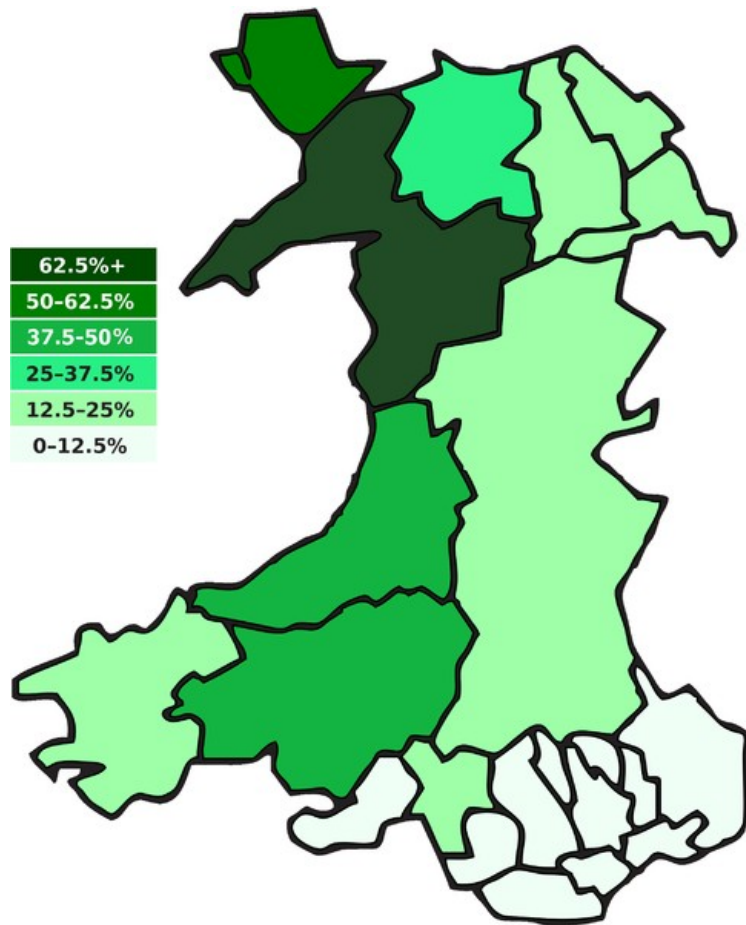


Cymraeg

(Welsh)

Rebecca Knowles

Language Demographics & Facts



- Primarily spoken in Wales
- ~500,000-700,000+ speakers
- 19% of population speaks Welsh
- 33% understands it
- Literary vs. colloquial registers
- Main dialects: northern and southern
- Classification: Indo-European, Celtic, Insular, Brythonic

Welsh in the Americas



- **Argentina**

- Patagonian Welsh
- 1500-13,000 L1 speakers
- 25,000 L2 speakers (1998)
- Spoken primarily in Y Wladfa
- Welsh language school and connections to Wales
- Active language community

- **USA**

- Welsh Tract, west of Philadelphia
- Western and north-eastern PA, Ohio
- Language reflected in place names, but no longer an active language community

History and Official Status



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- 20th century decline
- European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (1992)
- Welsh Language Act (1993), Government of Wales Act (1998)
- Officially recognized language (2011)
- Welsh Language Board (Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg)
- Compulsory in schools
- Radio stations, TV stations, websites, weekly newspaper, Eisteddfod

Orthography and Phonology



LLANFAIRPWLLGWYNGYLLGOGERYCHWYRNDROBWLLLLANTYSILIOGOGOGOCH

Llan-vire-pooll-guin-gill-go-ger-u-queern-drob-ooll-llandus-ilio-gogo-goch

Arriva Trains Wales / Trenau Arriva Cymru

ARRIVA

Uses the Latin alphabet with 28 letters (including 8 digraphs):
a, b, c, ch, d, dd, e, f, ff, g, ng, h, i, l, ll, m, n, o, p, ph, r, rh, s, t, th, u, w, y

- Most common diacritic: circumflex (long vowels)
- Digraphs also represented as digraphs in Welsh Braille
- Voiceless lateral fricative (ɬ), voiceless nasal stops
- 13 vowels (not all used in all dialects)

Syntax, Morphology, Etc.



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- VSO order
- Fronting of constituents
- Nouns precede adjectives that modify them
- Base 20 numbering system
- Mutations
- 3 persons (1st, 2nd, 3rd), 2 numbers, 2 genders

	Soft mutation	Nasal mutation	Aspirate mutation
carreg	y garreg	fy ngharreg	ei charreg
'stone'	'the stone'	'my stone'	'her stone'

MT Research & Resources

- <10 papers on MT-Archive
 - Phrase-based MT, gisting system, automatic subtitling, etc.
- Resources:
 - UAGT-PNAW (Welsh-English parallel corpus from the National Assembly – contains 510,813 sentences)
 - BangorTalk (Bilingual conversational corpus with translations – both Spanish-Welsh and English-Welsh)
 - Dictionaries and lexicons
- Links:
 - <http://www.cymraeg.org.uk/>
 - <http://bangortalk.org.uk/>
 - <http://xixona.dlsi.ua.es/corpora/UAGT-PNAW/>

Diolch!

Resources

- <http://www.ethnologue.com/language/cym>
- <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/welsh.htm>
- <http://aboutworldlanguages.com/welsh>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welsh_language
- <http://www.mt-archive.info/>