



Critically Explore A Historical Event That Has Significantly Had An Impact On The Language of Education in Wales

Module SJIE5004 : Celebrating Language and Cultural Belonging To Wales

History of the Welsh Language

- Earliest of the British languages (Greene, 2014)
- Can be traced to the end of the 8th century (Greene, 2014)
- Originates from a Celtic language spoken by Britons (Brain, 2020)
- This Celtic language provided the basis for Welsh but evolved in the South-West regions of Britain, providing the basis for Cornish, Cumbric in the North of England and Breton – the language of Brittany, France (Brain, 2020)

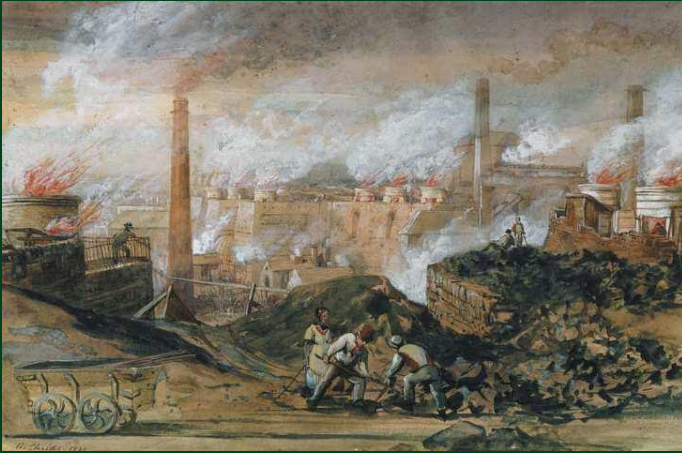


(Adams, 2016)



(Really Welsh,
2020)

Industrial Revolution of the 18th & 19th Century



(Childs, 1840)



- ↳ Brought Wales out of a predominantly agricultural society, where a low population lived rurally and were dependant on the agriculture (Smith et al, 2020)
- ↳ Fuelled by the wars of the late 18th and early 19th century (BBC, 2014)
- ↳ Copper smelting in Neath (BBC, 2014) and Swansea (Smith et al, 2020)
- ↳ Lead, silver, iron and coal mining in Flintshire, Cardiganshire, West Glamorgan and Monmouthshire (Smith et al, 2020)
- ↳ Different inventions became of age, such as steam powered locomotive in 1804 to help with transportation of mined goods and machinery to help with productivity (National Museum Wales, 2007)



Population Increase during the Industrial Revolution

- The Industrial Revolution caused a rise in population in Wales as a whole :
 - 🕒 Total rise of 1,562,875 between 1750 and 1901 with estimated 450,000 residents in 1750, and over 2 million [2,012,875] in 1901 (Smith et al, 2020)
- The main industrial expansion was with the construction of ironworks in Glamorgan; subsequently there was a rise in population between 1871 and 1881 in this area of 27% (Morgan 1981), with 126,529 migrated from outside of Wales to this area alone (Smith et al, 2020)

(Ivanova, 2020)

The Impact of the Industrial Revolution on the Welsh Language

- ‘Undermined the dominance of Welsh’ as English-speaking workers migrated to rural parts of Wales to work in factories and mines (Greene, 2017)
- English was becoming the predominant language used in workplaces and quickly was becoming the common language spoken by all (Brain, 2020)
- By the time the 20th century arrived, in 1901, English speakers outnumbered Welsh speakers – with around 46% of the population able to speak Welsh (Greene, 2017)

Census' of the 20th Century

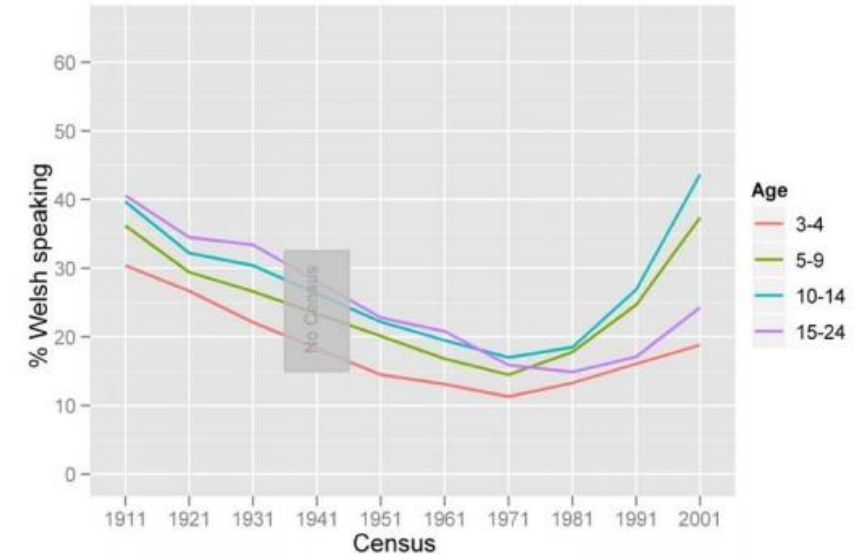
➤ First census to show increase in the number of those able to speak Welsh was the first of the 21st century in 2001; mostly in the 10-14 and 5-9 age ranges – of the population 3 years and over - rise of 2.1% (Jones, 2012) but still a large 71.6% unable to speak Welsh (StatsWales, 2012) [1]

⬆ Increase attributed to rise in Welsh medium education; in the Education Reform Act 1988 Welsh became a core subject of the National Curriculum in Wales, within 'Welsh-speaking' schools (Reinks et al, 2014) and in 1990 it became a compulsory subject for Key Stage 1, 2 and 3 (NAfW, 1990) and for Key Stage 4 in 1999 at all schools (NAfW, 1999)

➤ Evident in the percentage who could speak, read and write in 2001, 16.3% compared with 2.8% who could not read or write the language but could speak it (StatsWales, 2012) [1]

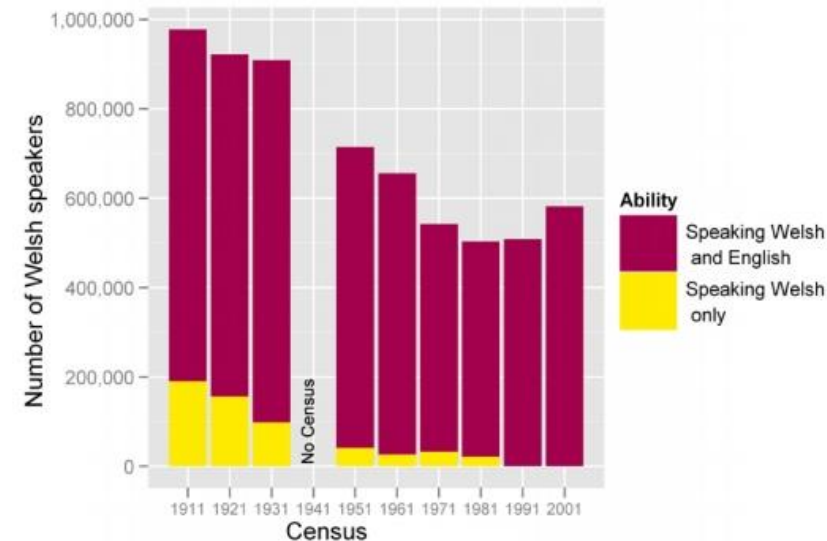
⬆ The lack of similar increase in the 15-24 age range can be attributed to the outward-migration in order to access the labour market and higher education (Jones, 2012)

Figure 3: % of Welsh speakers by age group, 1911-2001: those under 25



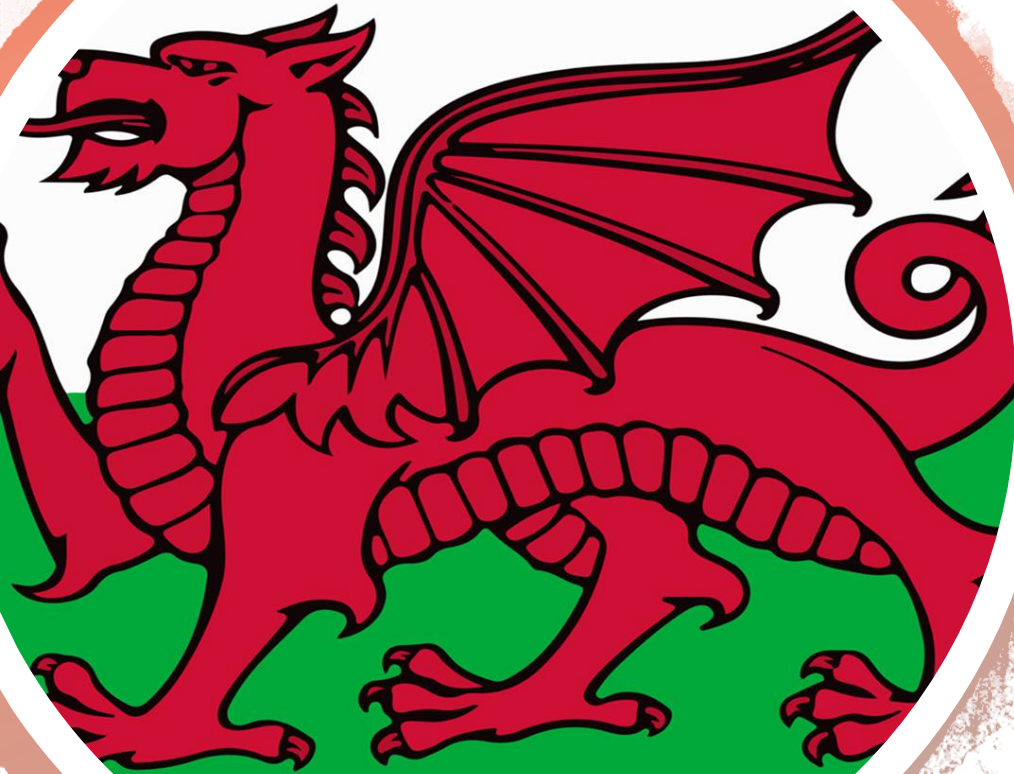
(Jones, 2012, pg.12)

Figure 1: % of the population able to speak Welsh, 1911-2001



(Jones, 2012, pg.11)

Welsh Language Acts of the 20th and 21st



(Williams, 2020)

- The 1967 Welsh Language Act gave the commitment that Welsh could be used within the courts, and provided rights for Ministers and Governments to prescribe forms in Welsh (Reinks et al, 2014)
- The 1993 Welsh Language Act stated the Welsh language should be treated equally to the English language, promoted and facilitated (NAfW, 1993)
- The Welsh Language Board was established to ensure public bodies such as Health Services, Police and Crime bodies and Fire and Rescue Authorities and The Administration of Justice (NAfW, 1993) followed Language Schemes to promote Welsh and to facilitate its use within their practices to ensure equal treatment of the language (Reinks et al, 2014)
- The Welsh language was only recognised and given official status in the 21st century in 2011 in the Welsh Language Measure (NAfW, 2011)

Welsh Language Use Surveys 2013-15



(Welsh Government, 2015) [2]

Fluency and frequency of speaking Welsh
highest in
Gwynedd, the Isle of Anglesey,
Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire

Of the Welsh speakers



had learnt to speak
Welsh at **home** as a
young child



had learnt to speak Welsh at
school

- Almost half of Welsh speakers felt they were fluent (47%)
- Even though the percentage of those fluent in the language were similar to the results of the 2004-06 survey, there are 130,700 more Welsh speakers who feel they are not fluent and 21% of Welsh speakers stated they felt they could speak a 'fair amount' of Welsh ~ showing more are speaking it colloquially and learning 'second-language' Welsh at school with 51% having learnt it at school
- Even though the highest concentration of fluent speakers still reside in areas of which kept mostly Welsh population during the influx in the 1800's, the largest increase in fluent Welsh speakers since the 2004-06 survey were seen in areas where this influx happened, near the coast and Ironworks ~ Cardiff, with 7,100 more, and Rhondda Cynon Taf with 5,300 more.
(Welsh Government, 2015)

Wellbeing of Future Generations Wales Act 2015

- Sets out goals to ensure that decisions made today are not undertaken at the expense of any future generations' well-being
- Aims to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales
- Set out an action plan named Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers and Education in Wales: Our national mission, Action plan 2017-21 ~ in turn while achieve this aim they plan to ensure
 - Welsh-medium education will be available to all – the Welsh In Education Action Plan 2017-21 was set up by Welsh Government
 - Welsh will be 'widely used in all aspects of life and workplaces'
 - Individuals will have continue to have, and will have increased equal opportunities to access key services through the language
 - Bilingualism will be beneficial to individuals through cognitive and social benefits, and beneficial to the economy
(Howe, 2020)

(Welsh Government, 2020) [3]

(Welsh Government, 2020) [3]



**Thank you for
listening**

References

- Adams, J. (2016) St David's Day Greeting Cards and Gifts [Digital Print] Available at: <http://judyadamsonartanddesign.blogspot.com/2016/01/st-davids-day-greeting-cards-and-gifts.html> (Accessed 29/09/2020)
- BBC (2014). Wales History: The Industrial Revolution. Available at : https://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/history/sites/themes/guide/ch15_industrial_revolution.shtml (Accessed 26/10/2020)
- Brain, J (2020) The Welsh Language: History Magazine. Historic UK Copyright. Available at : <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofWales/Welsh-Language/> (Accessed 17/10/2020)
- Childs, G. (1840) Dowlais (world's largest) Ironworks, Merthyr Tydfil [Painting] Available at : <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofWales/Merthyr-the-Welsh-Men-of-Steel/> and <https://museum.wales/articles/2007-04-18/Wales--the-first-industrial-nation-of-the-World/> (Accessed 12/10/2020)
- Greene, D. (2017) Celtic Languages: Encyclopædia Britannica. Available at : <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Celtic-languages/> (Accessed on 02/10/2020)
- Ivanova, L. (2020) Diverse Crowd [Vector Illustration] Available at : <https://www.istockphoto.com/vector/crowd-of-young-and-elderly-men-and-women-in-trendy-hipster-clothes-diverse-group-of-gm1202344480-345152183> (Accessed 30/09/2020)
- Howe, S. (2020) The Future Generations Report 2020. Future Generations Commissioner For Wales Copyright. Available at : <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FGC-Report-English.pdf> (Accessed 28/10/2020)
- Jones, H. (2012) A statistical overview of the Welsh language. Cardiff: Welsh Language Board
<http://www.comisiynyddygymraeg.cymru/English/Publications%20List/A%20statistical%20overview%20of%20the%20Welsh%20language.pdf>
- Morgan, K.O. (1981) Rebirth of a Nation: A History of Modern Wales. Oxford University Press: New York
- National Assembly for Wales (NAFW) (1993) Welsh Language Act. Crown Copyright. Available at : https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1993/38/pdfs/ukpga_19930038_en.pdf (Accessed 15/10/2020)
- National Assembly for Wales (NAFW) (2011) Welsh Language (Wales) Measure. Crown Copyright. Available at : https://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/1/pdfs/mwa_20110001_en.pdf?lang=en (Accessed 15/10/2020)
- National Museum Wales (2007) Wales – the first industrial nation of the World. Available at : <https://museum.wales/articles/2007-04-18/Wales--the-first-industrial-nation-of-the-World/> (Accessed 12/10/2020)
- Really Welsh (2020) Daffodil Banner [Digital Illustration] Available at : <http://www.reallywelsh.com/> (Accessed 29/09/2020)
- Reinks, I., Benedictus-Van Den, S. (2014) Welsh: The Welsh language in education in the UK; 2nd Edition. Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning, 2014. Available at : https://www.mercator-research.eu/fileadmin/mercator/documents/regional_dossiers/welsh_in_the_uk_2nd.pdf (Accessed 20/10/2020)
- StatsWales, (2012) [1] Welsh speakers by local authority and broader age groups, 2001 and 2011 census. Available at : <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Census-Welsh-Language/welshspeakers-by-la-broaderage-2001and2011census> (Accessed 16/10/2020)
- StatsWales, (2012) [2] Welsh language skills by local authority, gender and detailed age groups 2011 census. Available at <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Census-Welsh-Language/welshlanguageskills-by-localauthority-gender-detailedagegroups-2011census> (Accessed 16/10/2020)
- Smith, J.B., Carter, H. and Gruffudd, P. (2020) Wales: Encyclopædia Britannica. Available at : <https://www.britannica.com/place/Wales> (Accessed on 03/10/2020)
- Welsh Government (2015) [1] Welsh Language use Survey 2013-15. Crown Copyright. Available at : <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2018-12/160301-welsh-language-use-in-wales-2013-15-en.pdf> (Accessed 19/10/2020)
- Welsh Government (2015) [2] Welsh Language use Survey 2013-15 [Infographic]. Crown Copyright. Available at : <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2018-12/151126-welsh-language-use-survey-2013-15-infographic-en.pdf> (Accessed 19/10/2020)
- Welsh Government (2020) [3] Curriculum For Wales: Languages, Literacy and Communication Guidance. Available at : <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/languages-literacy-and-communication/> (Accessed 27/10/2020)
- Williams, B. (2020) Welsh Dragon Flag [Digital Illustration] Available at : <https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/en/view-image.php?image=104525&picture=welsh-flag> (Accessed 02/10/2020)