

Litir do Luchd-Ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

*A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, written and compiled by Roddy Maclean, and specifically aimed at Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Roddy can be contacted by e-mail at rodny.maclea@bbc.co.uk **

O chionn trì bliadhna neo mar sin, thàinig duine a-steach gu clas Gàidhlig a bha mi a’ cumail ann an Inbhir Nis agus thòisich sinn air bruidhinn ri chèile. Bha e ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig ach cha robh e fileanta is, mar sin, chuir mi ceistean sìmplidh air. “Cò às a tha sibh?” is “dè cho fada ’s a tha sibh air a bhith a’ fuireach ann an Inbhir Nis?”. Ceistean mar sin.

An uairsin, dh’fhaighnich mi dheth “dè an obair a th’ agaibh?” agus fhreagair e, “tha mi nam phràmhaiche.”

“O, seadh,” arsa mise, “tha sin math. Um, uill, a bheil sibh nur pràmhaiche math?”

“Tha,” fhreagair e, “cha chreid mi nach eil. Neo tha mi ’n dòchas gu bheil co-dhiù!”

“Tha is mise,” thuir mi, “ach feumaidh mi aideachadh nach eil mi a’ tuigsinn dè th’ ann ann am pràmhaiche.”

“O, tha mi duilich,” ars’ esan, “ach ’s e sin a’ Ghàidhlig air *anaesthetist*.”

“Uill, ’s math fios a bhith agam air a sin!” thuir mi le gàire. Chan eil latha a’ dol seachad ’s nach eil mi ag ionnsachadh rudeigin!

Bha an duine seo ag obair ann an ospadal an Rathaig Mhòir ann an Inbhir Nis, agus nuair a thàinig e don chlas air an t-seachdain as dèidh sin, thug e dhomh leth-bhreac de dhuilleagan a-mach à faclair beag a chaidh a chruthachadh le buidheann ris an canar Comann Gàidhlig Seirbheis na Slàinte. ’S e an t-ainm a th’ air an leabhar bheag *Faclair Gàidhlig do Lighichean ’s do Bhanaltraman*

Agus lorg mi na faclan air a’ chiad duilleig. *Anaesthetic – pràmhan. Anaesthetist – pràmhaiche.* Uill, tha na faclan sin a’ dèanamh ciall, ged is iad na faclan Beurla as cumanta a chluinneas tu ann an còmhradh Gàidhlig. Tha *pràmh* a’ ciallachadh cadal, neo tàmh neo fois. Ma tha thu fo phràmh, tha thu nad chadal. Ma tha thu a’ gabhail pràmh, tha thu a’ gabhail fois neo a’ faighinn cadal airson greis. Tha pràmh cuideachd a’ ciallachadh bròn neo mulad.

Nuair a chluinneas mi am facal pràmh, ’s ann tric a tha mi a’ smaoinichadh air bàrd a bha uaireigin ainmeil air a’ Ghàidhealtachd, Uilleam Mac a’ Ghobhainn, neo Uilleam Ruigh ’n Uidhe, a bha beò anns an ochdamh linn deug. Bha esan às Obair Neithich, làimh ris na beanntan brèagha ris an can sinn *am Monadh Ruadh*.

Bha Uilleam na shealgair agus chuir e seachad mòran ùine anns na beanntan sin. ’S e an t-àite a b’ fheàrr leis Allt an Lochain Uaine ann an Gleann an Doire agus sgrìobh e dàn mu dheidhinn a bha uaireigin ainmeil air feadh na Gàidhealtachd, ach gu h-àraidh ann am Bàideanach is Srath Spè. Seo a’ chiad rann dheth:

*Aig Allt an Lochain Uaine,
Gun robh mi uair a' tàmh,
'S ged a bha an t-àite fuar,
Bha an fhàrdach fuathasach blàth.
Ged thigeadh gaoth o thuath orm,
Is cathadh luath on àird,
Bhiodh Allt an Lochain Uaine
Le fhuaim gam chur gu pràmh.*

Chì sibh gu robh am bàrd gu math measail air nàdar, agus tha e follaiseach gun do ghabh e tlachd mhòr bho bhith a-muigh anns na beanntan, fiù 's nuair a bha cur is cathadh ann.

Agus dè an dòigh a b' fheàrr leibh fhèin a bhith air ur cur fo phràmh? Le pràmhaiche proifeasanta ann an ospadal, a chleachdas gasaichean mi-nàdarrach? Neo le fuaim binn nàdarrach Allt an Lochain Uaine anns a' Mhonadh Ruadh? Uill, chan eil fhios a'm dè ur beachd fhèin, ach feumaidh mi ràdh gur ann a' taobhadh le Uilleam Ruigh 'n Uidhe a tha mise. Beannachd leibh.

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Faclan na seachdainne: leth-bhreac: *copy*; cadal: *sleep*; tàmh, fois: *rest, inactivity (but tàmh also appears in the bàrdachd and here it means "to dwell")*; bron: *sorrow*; mulad: *grief*; Obair Neithich: *Abernethy*; am Monadh Ruadh: *The Cairngorms*; Gleann an Doire: *Glen Derry*; Bàideanach is Srath Spè: *Badenoch and Strathspey*.

Abairtean na seachdainne: o chionn trì bliadhna neo mar sin: *about three years ago*; chuir mi ceistean sìmplidh air: *I asked him simple questions*; tha mi nam phràmhach: *I am an anaesthetist (but note that most Gaelic-speakers would use the English term)*; cha chreid mi nach eil: *I think so*; feumaidh mi aideachadh: *I must admit*; 's math fios a bhith agam air a sin: *it's good (for me) to know that*; Ospadal an Rathaig Mhòir: *Raigmore Hospital*; a chaidh a chruthachadh le X: *which was made (created) by X*; Uilleam Mac a' Ghobainn, neo Uilleam Ruigh 'n Uidhe: *William Smith (or Gow), or William of Rynuie (this being his home locality, the name meaning "the shieling of the way")*; bha an fhàrdach fuathasach blàth: *the dwelling (ie bothy) was very warm (fuathasach is an alternative to uabhasach)*; bhiodh Allt an Lochain Uaine le fhuaim gam chur gu pràmh: *the burn of the green lochan, with its noise, would send me to sleep*; dè an dòigh a b' fheàrr leibh fhèin?: *which method would you prefer?*; gur ann a' taobhadh le X a tha mise: *that I am siding with X*.

Puing ghràmair na seachdainne: fuaim binn nàdarrach Allt an Lochain Uaine: *the melodious natural sound of the burn of the green lochan (or tarn). Here we have a series of three nouns interspersed with adjectives. If we dispense with the adjectives, we are left with "fuaim Allt an Lochain". In English, this would be "the noise of the burn of the lochan."* Do you notice that all three nouns carry the article in English and that the latter two are in the genitive case? In Gaelic, however, the situation is different. There are two important rules to be observed here: in a series of nouns (1) only the last noun carries the article and (2) only the last noun is in the genitive case (lochain instead of the nominative lochan). So we might have fuaim an uillt (the sound of the burn) but fuaim allt na beinne (the sound of the burn of the mountain). How would you say in Gaelic "the noise of the burn of the lochan of the mountain"?

Gnàths-cainnt na seachdaine: fiù 's nuair a bha cur is cathadh ann: *even when it was snowing and drifting. Cathadh means a snow-drift or snow driven by the wind. Cur (here a noun meaning “snow”) can also be used as a verb. Tha i a' cur sneachda (it is snowing). If the conditions are wintry, you only need say “a bheil i a' cur fhathast?” (is it still snowing?); the “snow” is understood.*

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