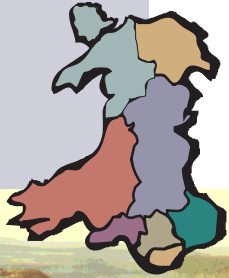


Sociolinguistic situation



Menai. Suspension Bridge

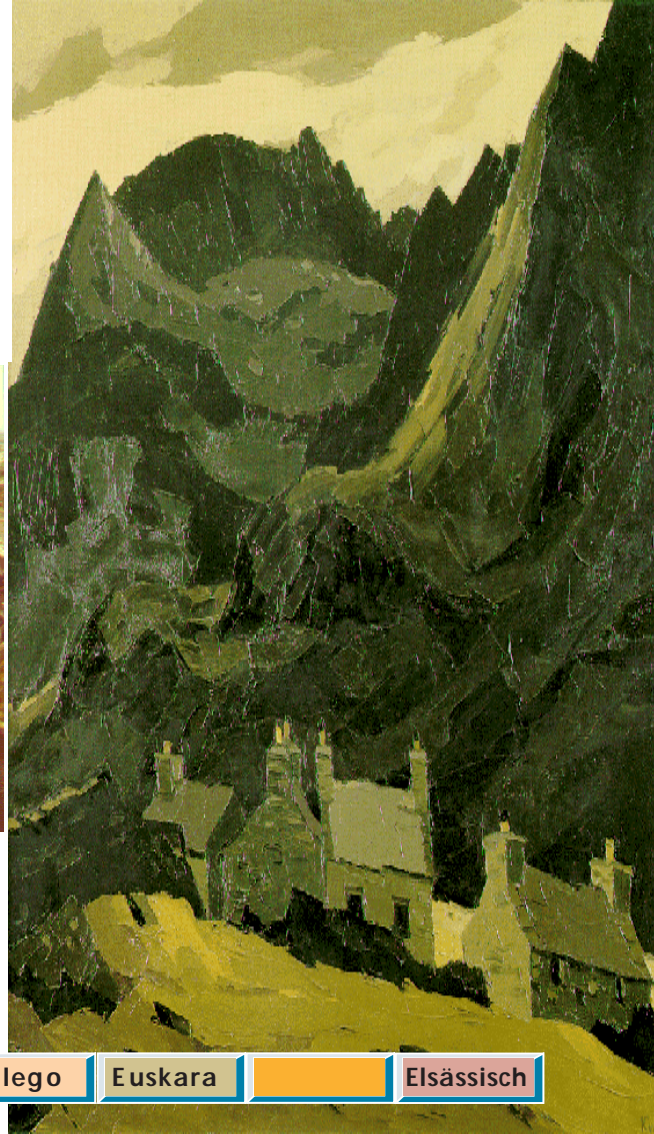


Català

Galego

Euskara

Elsässisch



Gwastadnant.
Kyffin Williams

Historical trends

Geographical distribution

Social class and ability

Ability x use

Sociolinguistic situation

Historical trends

Welsh-speakers, by historical trend and area



Geographical distribution

Ability x use

Social class and ability

Gregynog

What emerges from this table is the continuous decline in the number of Welsh speakers during this century. It is also clear that this process has been quickest in the industrial counties of Gwent, mid-Glamorgan and West Glamorgan where the number of speakers has more than halved. This should not be interpreted by reference to the customary rural/urban dichotomy as if this implies two different societies but rather by reference to the manner in which local government policies, the absence of any support system in the work situation and the extension of English enterprises to these locations have all focused upon English rather than Welsh language activities. Until recently it was only in the agricultural sector that Welsh speakers owned the means of production to any significant extent. On the other hand the table also indicates a slight increase in the number of speakers in certain counties, most notably Gwent and south Glamorgan in the last two decades. This is accounted for by the increased prestige of the language and developments in education.



Sociolinguistic situation

Historical trends

Welsh-speakers, by historical trend and area



Geographical distribution

Ability x use

Social class and ability

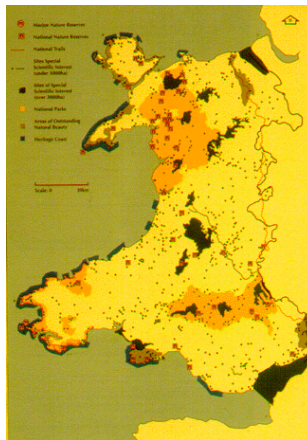
OPCS 100% tables, 1994b

Area	1921	1931	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991
Clwyd	102.2	105.9	90.2	83.8	72.8	70.3	70.2
Dyfed	209.3	212.9	191.2	181.3	159.1	147.3	142.6
Gwent	20.1	18.6	10.7	11.8	8.0	10.7	10.1
Gwynedd	171.6	169.7	154.9	146.1	136.3	135.8	136.2
Mid Glam	228.8	207.9	114.6	91.4	52.7	43.2	43.6
Powis	39.1	36.8	30.3	27.1	22.6	21.5	22.5
South Glam	17.8	18.1	15.6	18.7	18.7	21.3	24.3
West Glam	133.3	138.9	107.5	96.0	72.4	58.1	51.5
WALES	922.1	909.3	714.7	656.0	542.4	508.2	500.0

Sociolinguistic situation

Geographical distribution

The current geographical distribution



Historical trends

Ability x use

Social class and ability

OPCS 100% tables, 1994b

Area	Males age 3+years		Females age 3+years	
Clwyd	33,2663	(18%)	38,142	(19%)
Dyfed	68,754	(43%)	76,244	(44%)
Gwent	4,774	(2%)	5,565	(3%)
Gwynedd	65,762	(61%)	72,651	(61%)
Mid Glam	18,599	(8%)	24,664	(9%)
Powis	10,831	(19%)	12,040	(21%)
South Glam	10,838	(6%)	13,703	(7%)
West Glam	23,302	(14%)	28,966	(16%)
WALES	236,123	(18%)	271,975	(19%)

Sociolinguistic situation

Social class and ability

Welsh-speakers and non-Welsh speakers, by occupation, Wales, 1991



Historical trends

Ability x use

Geographical distribution

OPCS 10% sample, 1991

Wylfa Llanfflewyn

The distribution of Welsh speakers by occupational class is shown in table. It indicates that Welsh speakers are over-represented in agriculture and the professional classes and, to a lesser extent, among managers. It should be recognised that many of the managerial group who do not speak Welsh derive from outside of Wales. Welsh speakers are under-represented among industrial operators, sales personnel, skilled and clerical workers. This is indicative of the extent to which Welsh has served to extend the labour market, being more relevant for certain occupations, most notably those at the professional level. It also reflects what has been said above about Welsh in the industrial locations. Overall this suggests that there is a slight correlation between high social status and Welsh language ability.



Sociolinguistic situation

Social class and ability

Welsh-speakers and non-Welsh speakers, by occupation, Wales, 1991



Historical trends

Ability x use

Geographical distribution

OPCS 10% sample, 1991

Occupation	Total persons	Welsh-speakers		Non-Welsh speakers	
Managers	16499	3229	(20%)	13720	(80%)
Professionals	87777	2169	(25%)	6608	(75%)
Associate professionals	8559	1613	(19%)	6946	(81%)
Clerical	15012	2306	(15%)	12706	(85%)
Skilled	16098	2384	(15%)	13714	(85%)
Personal Service	10562	1788	(17%)	8774	(83%)
Sales	7923	1097	(14%)	6826	(86%)
Industrial operators	13417	1782	(13%)	11635	(87%)
Agriculture	958	401	(42%)	557	(58%)
Other elementary occupations	9748	1386	(14%)	8362	(86%)

Sociolinguistic situation

Ability x use

To indicate the relative strength of the Welsh language in communities across Wales according to the Census data



Historical trends

Social class and ability

Geographical distribution

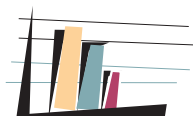
Boyhood home of David Lloyd George

This can be expressed by the percentages of people who speak Welsh in Welsh across the 908 wards in Wales. This is expressed in column one of the data in the Appendix.

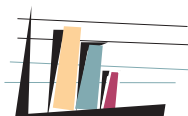
While speaking Welsh is an important foundation, a language which people speak but in which they are not literate is either a 'primitive' or a colonised language. A colonised language is where people speak in the vernacular but are required to be literate in the majority language (usually English or French). Where people have literacy as well as oracy skills in Welsh, the language has more uses and functions, and more status and possibilities, with a potentiality of employment where literacy or biliteracy is important.

Thus, in column two of the data in the Appendix, the percentage of people who are literate in Welsh in a ward is given. Where there is a large difference in the percentage in a ward who speak Welsh and who are literate in Welsh, the language may be less strong. Such a large difference indicates areas where the language needs strengthening.

GRAPHIC 1



GRAPHIC 2



TABLE



Sociolinguistic situation

Ability x use

To indicate the relative strength of the Welsh language in communities across Wales according to the Census data

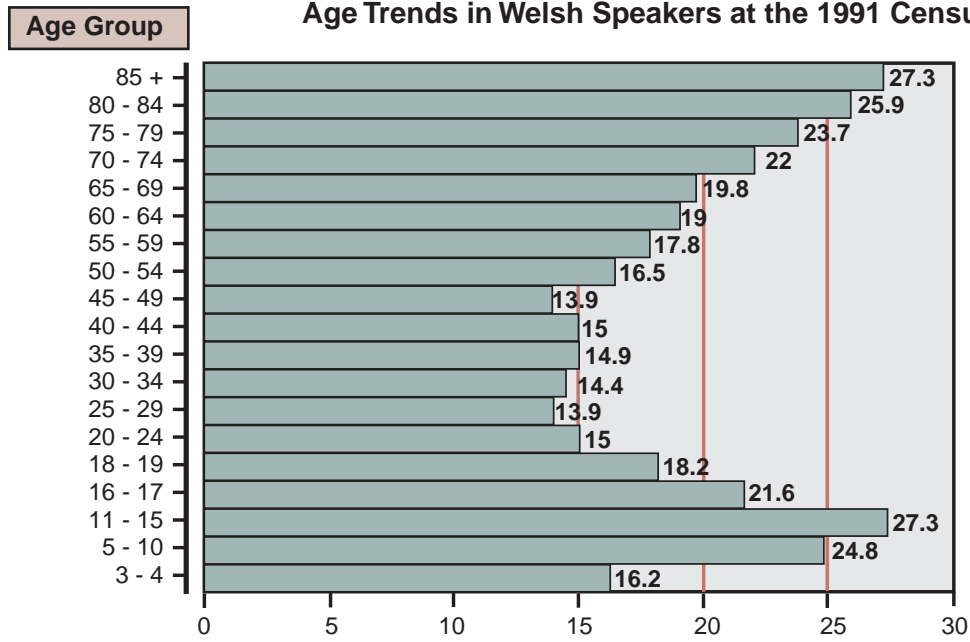


Historical trends

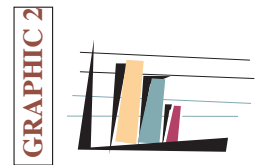
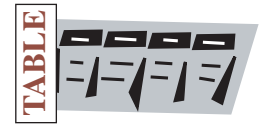
Social class and ability

Geographical distribution

Age Trends in Welsh Speakers at the 1991 Census



Percentage Speak Welsh



Sociolinguistic situation

Ability x use

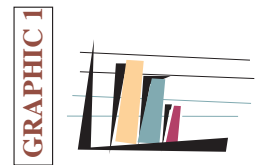
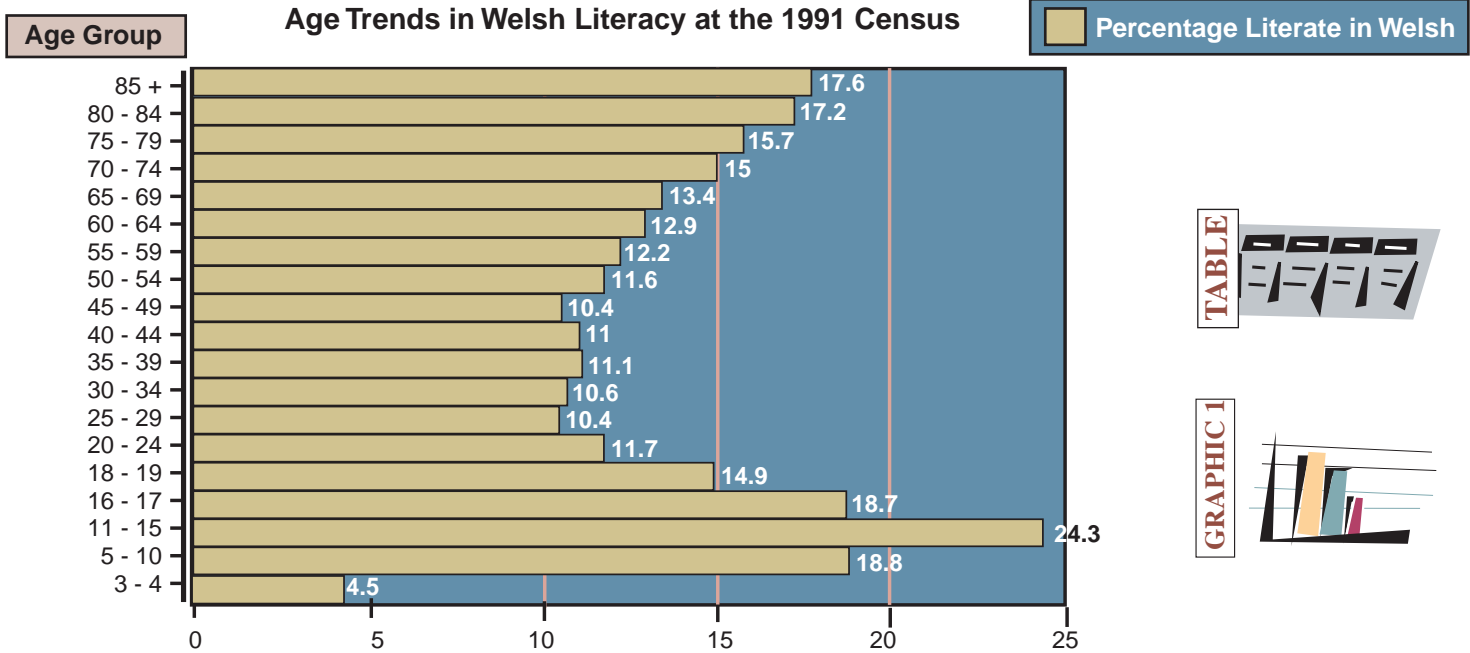
To indicate the relative strength of the Welsh language in communities across Wales according to the Census data



Historical trends

Social class and ability

Geographical distribution



Sociolinguistic situation

Ability x use

To indicate the relative strength of the Welsh language in communities across Wales according to the Census data



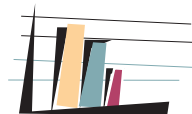
Historical trends

Social class and ability

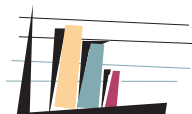
Geographical distribution

Age Group	% Speak Welsh	% Literate in Welsh
3 - 4	16.2	4.5
5 - 10	24.8	18.8
11 - 15	27.3	24.3
16 - 17	21.6	18.7
18 - 19	18.2	14.9
20 - 24	15.0	11.7
25 - 29	13.9	10.4
30 - 34	14.4	10.6
35 - 39	14.9	11.1
40 - 44	15.0	11.0
45 - 49	13.9	10.4
50 - 54	16.5	11.6
55 - 59	17.8	12.2
60 - 64	19.0	12.9
65 - 69	19.8	13.4
70 - 74	22.0	15.0
75 - 79	23.7	15.7
80 - 84	25.9	17.2
85 +	27.3	17.6

GRAPHIC 1



GRAPHIC 2



Sociolinguistic situation

Ability x use

To indicate areas where the Welsh language is being successfully (and less successfully) reproduced among the young



Historical trends

Social class and ability

Geographical distribution

Ynys
Llanddwyn

Figures represent the percentage of older and younger people within each ward in Wales who speak Welsh. This gives an indication of areas where the Welsh language is reviving, reproducing or in decline. This is portrayed on a following map. Younger people are defined as those aged 5 to 24. Older people are defined as those over 25. The justification for the boundary at age 24/25 is to highlight the effects of the increased teaching of Welsh in the National Curriculum, and from an assumption that language reproduction occurs mostly (but not exclusively) by the end of formal education. While adult language classes add to the numbers of Welsh speakers, this occurs in all age groups and thus is difficult to add into a decision about an age boundary.

For any minority language to survive, there needs to be language reproduction among the young. Where a language has many older speakers and few younger speakers, the language is dying. Therefore, it is important to provide a regional analysis in Wales to highlight which communities are reproducing the language among the young.



Sociolinguistic situation

Ability x use

To indicate areas where the Welsh language is being successfully (and less successfully) reproduced among the young



Historical trends

Social class and ability

Geographical distribution

That is, where are there communities with proportionally more older speakers than younger speakers, and therefore a sign of the language dying within such communities? Where are there communities where the language is holding its own, with little or no difference between the numbers of older and younger speakers? Where are there communities with more younger than older people able to speak Welsh, such communities showing signs of language renaissance and revival?

In such an analysis of language reproduction, a note of warning needs sounding. Since Welsh has been compulsory in most Key Stages of the National Curriculum throughout most of Wales, children may learn to speak Welsh, but not use it outside the school gates. Hence, the figures may be inflated for the numbers of children who actually use Welsh as opposed to have ability in it.



Sociolinguistic situation

Ability x use

To indicate areas where the Welsh language is being successfully (and less successfully) reproduced among the young



Historical trends

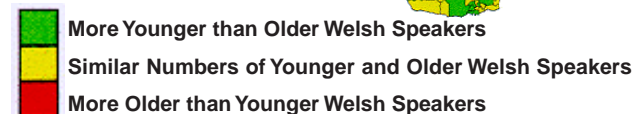
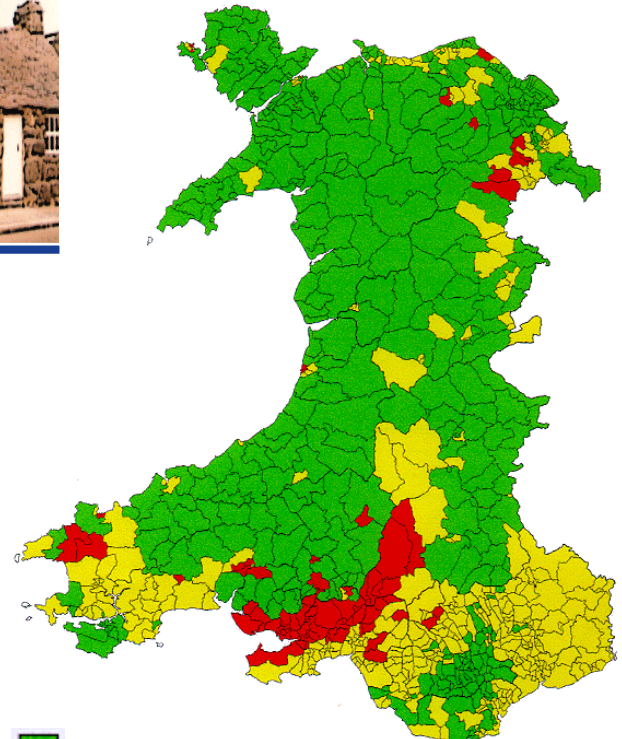
Social class and ability

Geographical distribution

The Welsh Language Reproduction Map (1991 Census)

This report contains a map which has a very positive and marketable message, and warning. The map locates those areas where language reproduction is either not occurring (shaded red), holding its own (shaded yellow), or in an apparent state of revival (shaded green).

It is noticeable on this map that wards where the language is not being reproduced among the young (shaded red) are not randomly distributed. Rather, there are distinct patches of red which indicate areas where urgent action is required. Understanding the reasons for language decline in such areas can inform a plan of action for such areas.



Sociolinguistic situation

Ability x use

To indicate areas where the Welsh language is being successfully (and less successfully) reproduced among the young



Historical trends

Social class and ability

Geographical distribution

However, there is no value in attributing blame; such communities will benefit most from recognition as 'priority areas' and an urgency in establishing local and institutional policies that reverse the trends.

What is also observable from the map is a large number of areas shaded green, where there are higher numbers of children able to speak Welsh than older people. Such a map can be used in a marketing campaign or marketing strategy to sound a note of optimism about the future of the Welsh language. Such optimism may, in turn, encourage parents to bring up their children Welsh, send their children to Ysgolion Meithrin and Welsh medium education, and thus a more positive attitude towards the future of Welsh.

