



THE UNIVERSITY OF
AUCKLAND
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau
NEW ZEALAND

Te Whakapaipai, Dílárúchán: Towards Decolonisation via the Digital Self-Directed Study of Indigenous Languages

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Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau

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Pepeha



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Tēnā koutou katoa	Greetings to you all
Ko Slieve Aughty te māunga	The mountain I affiliate to is Slieve Aughty
Ko Lough Derg te roto	The lake that I affiliate to is Lough Derg
Ko Galway tōku iwi a ko Gibbons tōku hapū.	My tribe is Galway and my clan is Gibbons
Ko Tiernascragh te papa kainga.	The village I affiliate to is Tiernascragh
Ko Patrick rāua ko Patricia tōku mātua.	My parents are Patrick and Patricia
Ko John Patrick tōku ingoa.	My name is John Patrick

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Agenda



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- Nana
- Vagabond settler
- On decolonisation
- Method
- Findings
- Pepeha redux

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Nana (dún an doras)



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- Anna Kathleen Gibbons Egan (1907 – 2008)
- Muinteoir, Irish Free State
- Bilingual Béarla/Gaelige
- Emigrated to US ~ 1930
- Eight kids
- Gave none of them any Irish



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Vagabond settler



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First People	Place	City	Country
Leni-Lenape	Lenapehoking	New York	Turtle Island/USA
Skwxwú7mesh)/ xʷməθkʷəy̓əm	Senakw	Vancouver	Turtle Island/ Canada
Ngāti Whātua	Tāmaki Makaurau	Auckland	Aotearoa/ New Zealand
Na hÉireannaigh	Port Omna/ Gaillimh	Portumna/ Galway	Éire/Ireland

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On decolonization



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It is an amazing thing that the problem of Irish liberation not only has continued longer than other comparable struggles but is so often not regarded as being an imperial or nationalist issue; instead it is comprehended as an aberration within the British dominions, yet the facts conclusively reveal otherwise. Since Spenser's 1596 tract on Ireland, a whole tradition of British and European thought has considered the Irish to be a separate and inferior race, usually unregenerately barbarian, often delinquent and primitive.

(Said, 2005a, p. 310).

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Method



- Action research (McNiff, Lomax and Whitehead, 1996; Greenwood and Levin, 2000)
- Improve practice as learner and lecturer through self-regulated learning strategies
- Learning materials :
 - Duolingo Irish/English
 - Memrise Māori/English
 - Wānanga o Aotearoa Papa Reo home-based learning
 - Fáilte ar line MOOCs from FutureLearn/DCU
 - *Māori Made Easy* (Morrison, varia) self-directed learning books

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Research question



To what extent do any (or all) self-regulated learning activities contribute to my learning of te reo Māori and Irish?

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Diacrits & dilemmas



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- Learning French means diacrits are OK for me
- View each as separate vowels, rather than 5 vowels with diacrits added
- Māori has 10 vowels: a e i o u ā ē ī ō ū and few vowel combinations
- Irish has 10 vowels: a e i o u á é í ó ú and many vowel combinations
- Māori orthography much simpler
- Easier to use diacrits on a Mac or iOS device than Windows or Android 😞

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Tools



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- Greater depth and breadth of language learning materials for Irish than te reo Māori
- Māori:
 - Wānanga course entirely self-directed and paper-based (motor skills impairment)
 - Memrise: flashcards and user generated
 - *Māori Made Easy* books versus workbooks
- Irish:
 - Duolingo offers multiple pathways through the curriculum (go Plus)
 - Fáite ar Line is transmissive so focus is triangulation

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The social



- [why rather than what]
- Motherfocloir podcast → Twitter → *Motherfocloir* book → *Craic Baby* book
- Duolingo class from Motherfocloir curator (Clodagh) including homework
- Facebook communities for Motherfocloir Duolingo and Fáiite ar line
- TVNZ *Te Karere* and Māori TV *Te Ao* news bulletins with subtitles

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Lessons learnt



- Greater opportunities for technology mediated Irish study means much more time spent Irish than Māori
- (lack of) Ease of access is not a deterrent so much as a barrier
- Language learning in-context works better
- Learning to “read the world by reading the word” (Freire, 1985) with different words
- Opening of a world articulated through Irish, and a world articulated through Māori
- The shovel and sort method still seems to be what works best for me
- Easy to get narrowly focused on tasks and lose larger goal: decolonisation

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Pepeha redux



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Tēnā koutou katoa	Go raibh maith agaibh go léir
Ko Slieve Aughty te māunga	Is é Eachtaí mo sliabh
Ko Loch Deirgeirt te roto	Is é Deirgeirt mo loch
Ko Gaillimh tōku iwi a ko Mac Giobúin tōku hapū.	Is é Gaillimh mo threibh agus is é Mac Giobúin mo chlann.
Ko Tiernascragh te papa kainga.	Is í Tiernascragh an baile
Ko Pádraic rāua ko Pádraigín tōku mātua.	Is iad mo thuismitheoirí Pádraic agus Pádraigín
Ko Seán Pádraic tōku ingoa.	Is mise Seán Pádraic.

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Kia ora!

Go raibh maith agaibh!

Thank you!

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