Staidéar Taiscéalaíoch ar an Dátheangachas i gCathair na Gaillimhe

Exploratory Study into Bilingualism in Galway City

Tuarascáil Taighde a choimisiúnaigh Gaillimh le Gaeilge i gcomhar le Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe agus leis an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta.

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Clár

Achoimre Fheidhmitheach	02
Réamhrá	03
Cúlra	04
Sliosamharc Samplach & Modheolaíocht	06
Gaillimh mar Chathair Dhátheangach	08
Cad is brí le Dátheangachas?	10
Mórtas Áite	18
Dátheangach nó Ilteangach	20
Teagmháil leis an Teanga	22
Constaicí	24
Róil Phearsanta & Ghairmiúla	26
Struchtúir a Mholadh agus a chur i bhFeidhm	38
Tátal	30
Cás-Staidéar: Bolzano/Bozen, An Iodáil	32
Aguisín 1:	
Suirbhé Sráide: Torthaí agus tuairimí ó na ceistneoirí	

Contents

Executive Summary	02
Introduction	03
Background	04
Sample Profile & Methodology	06
Galway City as a Setting	08
What is Bilingualism?	10
Local Pride	18
Bilingual or Multilingual?	20
Access	22
Obstacles	24
Personal & Professional Roles	26
Suggested Structures and Implementation	28
Conclusion	30
Case Study: Bolzano/Bozen, Italy	32
Appendix 1:	
Street Survey: Questionnaire results & comments	

Achoimre Fheidhmitheach

Is éard atá sa tuarascáil seo an t-eolas sin a d'eascair as staidéar taiscéalaíoch ar an dátheangachas i gCathair na Gaillimhe agus ar stádas oifigiúil dátheangach don chathair sin. Luaitear ann an toradh a bhí ar shuirbhé samplála, ar chruinnithe grúpaí fócais agus ar agallaimh phearsanta a rinneadh i gCathair na Gaillimhe idir Aibreán agus Iúil 2006. Bhí sé mar phríomhaidhm leis an taighde eolas a bhailiú chun go bhféadfaí sainmhíniú a thabhairt ar an dátheangachas i gCathair na Gaillimhe i dtaca le Gaeilge agus le Béarla. Ar a bharr sin, bhí sé ina chuspóir leis an taighde an meon agus an dearcadh atá ann, i gcoitinne, a mheas i leith stádas oifigiúil dátheangach a bhronnadh ar Chathair na Gaillimhe.

Léiríonn an anailís a rinneadh ar na sonraí a bailíodh go bhfuil dearcadh fíordhearfach, den chuid is mó, i gCathair na Gaillimhe i leith an dátheangachais agus i leith stádais oifigiúil dhátheangaigh don chathair. Tugtar an meon dearfach seo le fios, ní hamháin i measc cainteoirí Gaeilge, ach freisin i measc daoine atá ar bheagán nó ar fíorbheagán Gaeilge. Ar na daoine sin tá daoine nach náisiúnaigh de chuid na tíre iad, rud a léiríonn go bhfuil ceist na Gaeilge ábhartha do gach aon ghrúpa den tsochaí. Chuir freagróirí an tsuirbhé béim níos láidre ar ghnéithe áirithe nuair a rinneadh plé ar thábhacht an dátheangachais i gcomhthéacs na Gaillimhe. Bhíothas den tuairim gurb é an dátheangachas sna meáin, san earnáil phoiblí agus ar bhonn infheicthe ar fud na cathrach an ní is tábhachtaí agus cuireadh béim láidir ar an teanga labhartha i gcomhluadar poiblí neamhfhoirmiúil mar ghné tharraingteach den dátheangachas i nGaillimh.

B'fhollasach go bhfuil comhdhearcadh i measc líon mór freagróirí maidir le cúl a thabhairt don fhoirmiúlacht a bhain leis an teanga go dtí seo agus teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an bpobal i gcoitinne trí mhórphearsana cultúrtha, mar Hector Ó hEochagáin, agus trí ionaid dhátheangacha a mbeadh fáil orthu go héasca .i. caifí dhátheangacha agus slite neamhfhoirmiúla eile. Bhí an earnáil ghnó den tuairim, i gcoitinne, gurb é an tionchar a bheadh ag stádas oifigiúil dátheangach ar Chathair na Gaillimhe éileamh ó Ghaeilgeoirí a gcuid gnó a dhéanamh leis an earnáil phríobháideach trí mheán na Gaeilge, dá mba mhian leo sin a dhéanamh. Ba léir, áfach, nár thug pobal na Gaeilge an t-éileamh seo le fios sa suirbhé. Chuir siad béim níos láidre ar sheirbhís dhátheangach san earnáil phoiblí, go mbeadh an dátheangachas le tabhairt faoi deara ar fud na cathrach agus go mbeadh fáil ar mheáin dhátheangacha.

Is é an príomhchinneadh a tháinig ón tuarascáil cé go bhfuil leibhéal suntasach dea-thola agus díograise le brath don smaoineamh stádas dátheangach a thabhairt do Chathair na Gaillimhe, beidh an cur chuige a roghnófar chun an stádas sin a chur i bhfeidhm fíorthábhachtach. Beidh luach ar leith ag baint leis an meon a léireoidh tionscnóirí an stádais sin chun grúpaí, páirtithe leasmhara agus daoine éagsúla a mhealladh ina threo, mar aon leis an míniú a thabharfar ar an leas a bhainfidh an chathair as an stádas sin agus ar an tslí ina rachaidh sé i bhfeidhm ar mhuintir na cathrach.

Executive Summary

This report contains the findings of an exploratory study on bilingualism in Galway city and possible official bilingual status for Galway city. It includes the results of a representative sample survey, focus group deliberations and personal in-depth interviews conducted in Galway city from April to July 2006. The key aim of the research was to gather information so as to establish a definition of bilingualism for Galway city regarding Irish and English. It also set out to assess general feelings and attitudes towards the idea of conferring official bilingual status on Galway city.

Analysis of the data collected shows that there is, in general, a very positive view in Galway city towards bilingualism and the idea of official bilingual status for the city. This positive attitude is evident not only among Irish speakers, but also among those with little or no proficiency in the Irish language including non-nationals, indicating a relevance to all groups of society. Respondents highlighted some factors as holding more importance than others when discussing what bilingualism means in a Galway city context. The use of bilingualism in the media, in the public sector and in the visible cityscape were deemed most important and there was a strong emphasis on the use of the spoken language in an informal public environment as an attractive aspect of bilingualism in Galway.

There was a clear consensus among a large number of respondents to move away from the formality previously associated with the language, and to engage with the general population through the use of popular cultural icons, such as Hector Ó hEochagáin, and easily accessible bilingual platforms, such as bilingual cafés and other informal approaches. The business sector generally assumed that an official bilingual status for Galway city would constitute a demand from the Irish-speaking consumer to conduct their business with the private sector in Irish, if they so choose. This demand was not evident among the Irish speaking community, who placed more emphasis on bilingual service availability from the public sector, visible bilingualism throughout the city and the availability of bilingual media.

The main findings of the report conclude that while there is a significant level of good-will and enthusiasm for the idea of bilingual status for Galway city, the approach and the implementation of such status is extremely important. The 'buy-in' of various groups, stakeholders and individuals will depend largely on the attitude portrayed by the promoters of such status and the clear definition of what this status will mean to the city and how it will effect its inhabitants.

Réamhrá

I mí na Nollag 2005, chinn Gaillimh le Gaeilge, mar chuid dá Plean Straitéiseach 2006-2008, staidéar taiscéalaíoch ar an dátheangachas i gCathair na Gaillimhe a choimisiúnú i gcomhar le Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe agus leis an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta. Tugann an Plean Straitéiseach aitheantas don sprioc straitéiseach 'stádas oifigiúil dátheangach a bhaint amach do Chathair na Gaillimhe' chun 'staid na teanga sa chathair a bhuanú, agus chun eiseamláir a dhéanamh de Chathair na Gaillimhe, ar bhonn náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta, mar áit shainiúil le stádas speisialta sainaitheanta'. Is é an chéad 'Ghníomh' faoin sprioc straitéiseach sin staidéar taiscéalaíoch a choimisiúnú ar cé chomh hindéanta agus atá an dátheangachas i gCathair na Gaillimhe.

Bhí sé mar phríomhchuspóir leis an taighde sin sainmhíniú a thabhairt ar an dátheangachas a bheadh indéanta i gCathair na Gaillimhe agus ag Gaillimh le Gaeilge.
Seo a leanas na haidhmeanna a bhí leis an taighde:

- Tuiscint a fháil agus sainmhíniú a thabhairt ar an tionchar a bheadh ag an stádas 'Cathair Dhátheangach' ar Chathair na Gaillimhe.
- Iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar an tionchar a bheadh ag an dátheangachas ar iliomad earnálacha agus grúpaí daoine a chónaíonn, a oibríonn agus a dhéanann gnó sa chathair, agus dearcadh na dtomhaltóirí agus na soláthraithe a fháil.
- Struchtúir a mholadh agus a mheas lena chinntiú go mbeidh gnáthmhuintir na Gaillimhe comhpháirteach i ndearadh agus i gcur i bhfeidhm an bheartais dhátheangaigh don chathair.

I mí an Mhárta 2006, rinne an comhlacht margaíochta dátheangach, D'Arcy Marketing, an taighde bunaidh don tionscadal agus sholáthar an Roinn Taighde Margaíochta, OÉ Gaillimh, tacaíocht theicniúil ar bhonn gearrthéarmach. Ba phróiseas cuimsitheach a bhí i gceist leis an taighde agus chuathas i gcomhairle le sliosamharc samplach de ghnáthmhuintir an phobail agus de pháirtithe leasmhara na cathrach. Le linn an phróisis, cuireadh na constaicí praiticiúla agus na himpleachtaí sóisialta, cultúrtha, eacnamaíocha agus polaitiúil san áireamh ar bhonn réigiúnach, náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta araon.

Chun forléargas a fháil ar an tslí a ndeachaigh cathracha eile i ngleic leis an dátheangachas, thug Gaillimh le Gaeilge cuairt ar an gcathair dhátheangach Bolzano/Bozen i dTuaisceart na hIodáile. Bíonn dhá theanga in úsáid sa chathair sin ó lá go lá – an Ghearmáinis agus an Iodáilis. Bhí sé mar aidhm leis an gcuairt sin léargas a fháil ar na struchtúir agus ar na buntáistí a bhaineann leis an dátheangachas sa chathair chun samhail agus eiseamláir a aimsiú don staidéar taiscéalaíoch seo.
Cé go raibh fios ag foireann Ghaillimh le Gaeilge ar na céimeanna difriúla i bhforbairt an dátheangachais ag a bhfuil Cathair na Gaillimhe agus Bolzano/Bozen agus faoi staid na dteangacha sin (mórtheangacha agus ní mionteangacha iad an Ghearmáinis agus an Iodáilis) i gcomparáid le Gaillimh, baintear úsáid as an gcás sin sa staidéar seo mar eiseamláir mhianaidhme don dátheangachas i suíomh uirbeach. Sholáthar an chuairt staidéir comhthéacs maidir leis an gcaoi inar féidir le cathair beartas dátheangach a chur i bhfeidhm agus ardleibhéal tuisceana agus comhionannas teangacha a bhaint amach.

Introduction

In December 2005, Gaillimh le Gaeilge, as part of it's Strategic Plan 2006-2008 and in partnership with Galway City Council and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, set out to commission an exploratory study into bilingualism in Galway city. The Strategic Plan identifies the strategic goal of the 'Achievement of Official Bilingual Status for Galway city' in order to 'solidify the position of the language in the city, as well as setting Galway city apart both nationally and internationally as a unique place with a special recognised status'. The first 'Action' under this strategic goal is to commission an exploratory study into the feasibility of bilingualism in Galway city.

The principal objective of this research was to determine a definition of bilingualism that will be feasible for Galway city and Gaillimh le Gaeilge.
The aims of the research were as follows:

- To ascertain an understanding and a definition as to what it would mean for Galway to be given the status of a 'Bilingual City'.
- To ascertain and explore what bilingualism means to the many sectors and segments of people, who live, work and do business in the city, from both a customer and providers perspective.
- To suggest and assess structures to ensure that the people of Galway will have a partnership role in the formation and implementation of a bilingual policy in the city.

D'Arcy Marketing, a bilingual marketing company, undertook the primary research for this project in March 2006 with short-term technical support from the Marketing Research Department, NUI Galway. The research was an inclusive process in which a sample of the members of the public and key stakeholders in the city were consulted, taking into account practical obstacles and social, cultural, economic and political implications, in a regional, national and international context.

In order to gain a perspective of how other cities have approached bilingualism, Gaillimh le Gaeilge staff visited the bilingual city of Bolzano/Bozen in Northern Italy; a city with two languages in use, German and Italian. The aim of this study visit was to gain an insight into the mechanisms and practicalities of bilingualism in the city for the purpose of identifying a model and contributing an example to this exploratory study research. Although Gaillimh le Gaeilge staff were aware of the very different stages of bilingual development between Galway city and Bolzano/Bozen and the positions of the languages (German and Italian being strong languages, not minority languages) as opposed to those in Galway, the case is used in this study as an aspirational example for bilingualism in an urban environment. The study visit provided a context of how a city operates a bilingual policy and achieves a high level of linguistic awareness and equality.

Cúlra

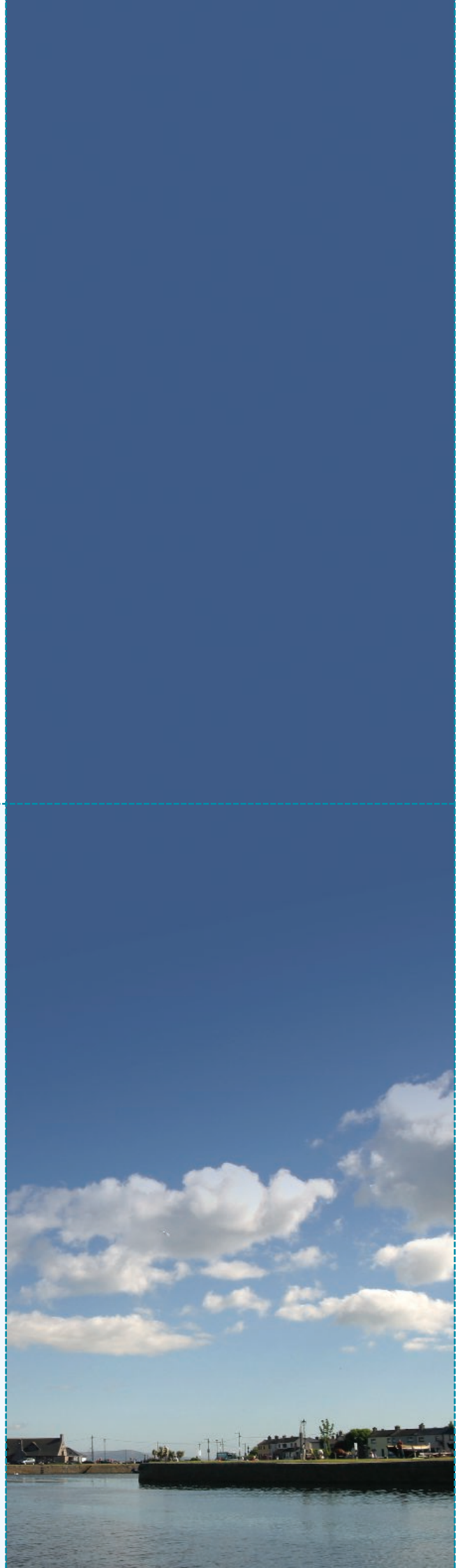
Bunaíodh Gaillimh le Gaeilge i 1987 chun an Ghaeilge a chothú agus a láidriú, agus go háirithe mar acmhainn eacnamaíoch do limistéar na Gaillimhe. Is é an misean is tábhachtaí a bhí agus atá ag Gaillimh le Gaeilge an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn sa chathair ionas go mbeidh an teanga in úsáid go coitianta ann.
Léirigh tuarascáil de chuid OÉ Gaillimh, a choimisiúnaigh Gaillimh le Gaeilge i 1987, go bhfuil buntáiste suntasach airgid ag Cathair na Gaillimhe agus ag an gceantar máguaird i ngeall ar idirghabháil an stáit sa Ghaeltacht mhórthimpeall. Mar thoradh ar thuarascáil OÉ Gaillimh, thug Gaillimh le Gaeilge aghaidh ar an bpobal gnó sa chathair lena chinntiú nach gcaillfeadh an réigiún an buntáiste eacnamaíoch seo.
Tá an-dul chun cinn déanta ag Gaillimh le Gaeilge i gcomhar leis an bpobal gnó faoi choimirce Chumann Tráchtála na Gaillimhe agus le Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe chun an Ghaeilge a scaipeadh agus a chur chun cinn i ngnáthshaol na cathrach. Léirigh scéimeanna mar 'Cairde Ghaillimh le Gaeilge' agus 'Gradam Sheosamh Uí Ógartaigh', le deireanas, go bhfuil scéimeanna den saghas seo tábhachtach chun teagmháil a dhéanamh le pobal níos leithne trí chur chuige cairdiúil agus oscailte a úsáid.

Is smaoineamh nua, áfach, an smaoineamh faoi chathair Éireannach le stádas oifigiúil dátheangach. Níl a leithéid de stádas iarrtha ag aon chathair eile sa tír, agus dá bhrí sin, ní mórán iarrachtaí a rinneadh go dtí seo in Éirinn chun an dátheangachas a shainmhíniú i dtaca le Béarla agus le Gaeilge laistigh de cheantar uirbeach. Bíonn teagmháil leanúnach ag Gaillimh le Gaeilge leis an bpobal áitiúil chun aiseolas agus moltaí a fháil agus bíonn an cur chuige oscailte seo in úsáid ag an eagraíocht i gcónaí agus í i mbun cainte le pobal gnó na cathrach. Mheas Gaillimh le Gaeilge go raibh gá le tuiscint chuimsitheach a fháil ar an dearcadh atá ag pobail éagsúla na cathrach ar an dátheangachas - daoine a oibríonn agus a chónaíonn sa chathair, agus cuairteoirí go dtí an chathair - agus ar a dtuairimí faoi stádas oifigiúil dátheangach i gcomhthéacs na Gaillimhe.

Background

Gaillimh le Gaeilge was established in 1987 with a view to maintaining and strengthing the Irish language, particularly as an economic resource in the Galway area. The overriding mission of Gaillimh le Gaeilge has been the promotion of the Irish language in Galway so that the use of Irish becomes more normal in the city.
The findings from a NUIG report commissioned in 1987 by Gaillimh le Gaeilge showed a significant financial boon to Galway city and its environs from the state interventions alone in the contiguous Irish speaking Gaeltacht. As a consequence of the NUIG report, Gaillimh le Gaeilge focused its efforts on the business community, so as to ensure that this economic advantage remained in the region.
Gaillimh le Gaeilge has achieved success in partnership with the business community through the Galway Chamber and with Galway City Council in raising the visibility and promoting the use of the Irish language on a day-to-day basis in the city. The use of such schemes as 'Cairde Ghaillimh le Gaeilge' and 'Gradam Sheosamh Uí Ógartaigh' have recently proved effective in reaching a wide target audience with a friendly and open approach.

However, the idea of an Irish city with official bilingual status is a new one. No other city in the country has sought such status and thus attempts to define bilingualism in terms of English and Irish for an urban environment have been practically non-existent and without precedent in Ireland. Gaillimh le Gaeilge continues to engage with the local community for feedback and suggestions and has always promoted this open approach in it's dealings with the business community. Gaillimh le Gaeilge thus found it necessary to seek a comprehensive understanding of how those living and working in Galway city, together with those visiting the city, feel about bilingualism and what they think an official bilingual status would be in the Galway city context.



Sliosamharc Samplach & Modheolaíocht

Ba staidéar taiscéalaíoch a roghnaíodh mar mhodheolaíocht don tionscadal agus baineadh úsáid as modhanna cáilíochtúla agus cainníochtúla taighde. Is gnách staidéar taiscéalaíoch a dhéanamh chun treochtaí, patrúin agus réimsí iompraíochta nach bhfuil ar eolas a chruthú. Is modh solúbtha taighde atá i gceist agus is féidir é a athrú ar feadh shaolré an tionscadail. Sa chás atá faoi chaibidil anseo, is iad na hathróga nach bhfuil ar eolas agus nach bhfuil cruthaithe an dearcadh agus an iompraíocht i leith an dátheangachais i gCathair na Gaillimhe agus an féidearthacht atá ann stádas oifigiúil dátheangach a bhronnadh ar Chathair na Gaillimhe.

Trí athruithe a thabhairt faoi deara i ndearcadh agus i meon an phobail, is éard a bhí mar aidhm leis an staidéar:

- Faisnéis cháilíochtúil agus chainníochtúil a bhaint ón dearcadh atá ag na freagróirí ar an dátheangachas;
- Soiléiriú a fháil ar na tuairimí atá ag an bpobal faoin dátheangachas i gcomhthéacs na Gaillimhe;
- Tuairimí an phobail a bhailiú faoi fhachtóirí éagsúla a bhaineann leis an dátheangachas i dtimpeallacht uirbeach.

Is é an modh cainníochtúil bailiúchán sonraí a roghnaíodh don tionscadal seo suirbhé sráide a rinneadh ag úsáid ceistneoirí i gCathair na Gaillimhe. Roghnaíodh 500 freagróir mar líon samplach. Bunaíodh an líon sin ar fhigiúirí an réamhdhaonáirimh 2006, inar tugadh le fios go raibh daonra Chathair na Gaillimhe ionann le 65,832. De réir mheáin na tionsclaíochta ba chóir corrlach 5% a fhágáil i gcás earráide i gcomhair daonra atá faoi bhun 100,000, ar ionann é agus 383 freagróir samplach. Dá réir sin, tugann an líon samplach de 500 duine a roghnaíodh (as a bhfuarthas 492 ceistneoir bailí, 8 gceistneoir millte) léiriú leormhaith ar Chathair na Gaillimhe.

Bíonn gá, áfach, i gcás staidéar taiscéalaíoch, le méid suntasach taighde cháilíochtúil chun iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar na smaointe agus ar na mothúcháin a bhíonn mar chúis leis na staitisticí cainníochtúla. Roghnaíodh dhá mhodh taighde cháilíochtúla don staidéar seo – cruinnithe grúpaí fócais agus agallaimh phearsanta. Eagraíodh an chéad mhodh i gcomhar le hionadaithe ó na hearnálacha seo a leanas: na healaíona, an turasóireacht, na gairmeacha, an earnáil phoiblí, fiontair bheaga agus mheánmhéide, an óige agus an earnáil fáilteachais. Cuireadh ceisteanna éagsúla ar na rannpháirtithe agus tugadh spás agus am dóibh a dtuairimí a chur in iúl faoi na saincheisteanna sin; ansin cuireadh deiseanna ar fáil chun breis iniúchta a dhéanamh ar a gcuid tuairimí agus smaointe.

Cuireadh daoine áirithe faoi agallamh pearsanta. Ba iad sin lucht gnó ó earnálacha éagsúla agus ionadaithe tofa agus oifigigh ón earnáil phoiblí.

Is iad na trí phríomhchuspóir a bhí leis na hagallaimh:
Léargas a fháil ar mheon agus ar dhearcadh na bhfreagróirí faoin ábhar a bhí faoi chaibidil:
Léargas praiticiúil a fháil ar dhearcadh na bhfreagróirí faoin ról a bheadh acu agus ag a n-eagraíochtaí sa tionscadal;
Tuiscint a fháil ar a gcuid tuairimí faoi na struchtúir agus na buntáistí a bhainfeadh le stádas oifigiúil dátheangach sa chathair.

Rinneadh anailís ar na sonraí cáilíochtúla agus cainníochtúla chun tuiscint fhoriomlán a fháil ar na freagraí a tugadh. Dá bhrí sin, nuair a dhéantar tagairt do staitisticí sa tuarascáil seo, féadfaidh an léitheoir glacadh leis go n-eascraíonn na staitisticí sin ón taighde cainníochtúil (an suirbhé sráide).

Sample Profile & Methodology

This project was conducted as an exploratory study through both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Exploratory studies are undertaken to establish trends, patterns and ranges of behaviour that are unknown and is a flexible research method that can be adapted throughout the research project. In this case attitudes and behaviour towards the idea of bilingualism in Galway city and the possibility of conferring an official bilingual status on Galway city constitute the previously unknown and undocumented variables.

Through identifying shifts in attitudes, the exploratory study was designed to:

- Establish qualitative and quantitative information on what respondents believe bilingualism means;
- Clarify what they believe it means in a Galway city context;
- Collect their views on various factors surrounding the concept of bilingualism in an urban environment.

The quantitative data collection method chosen for this research project was a street survey conducted by questionnaire in Galway city. A sample size of 500 was chosen. Based on census (preliminary 2006) figures, the population of Galway city is 65,832. Industry averages dictate a 5% margin of error for a population under 100,000, which would require a sample of 383 respondents. Thus, the sample taken of 500 (resulting in 492 valid questionnaires, 8 being spoilt) gave an adequate representation for Galway city.

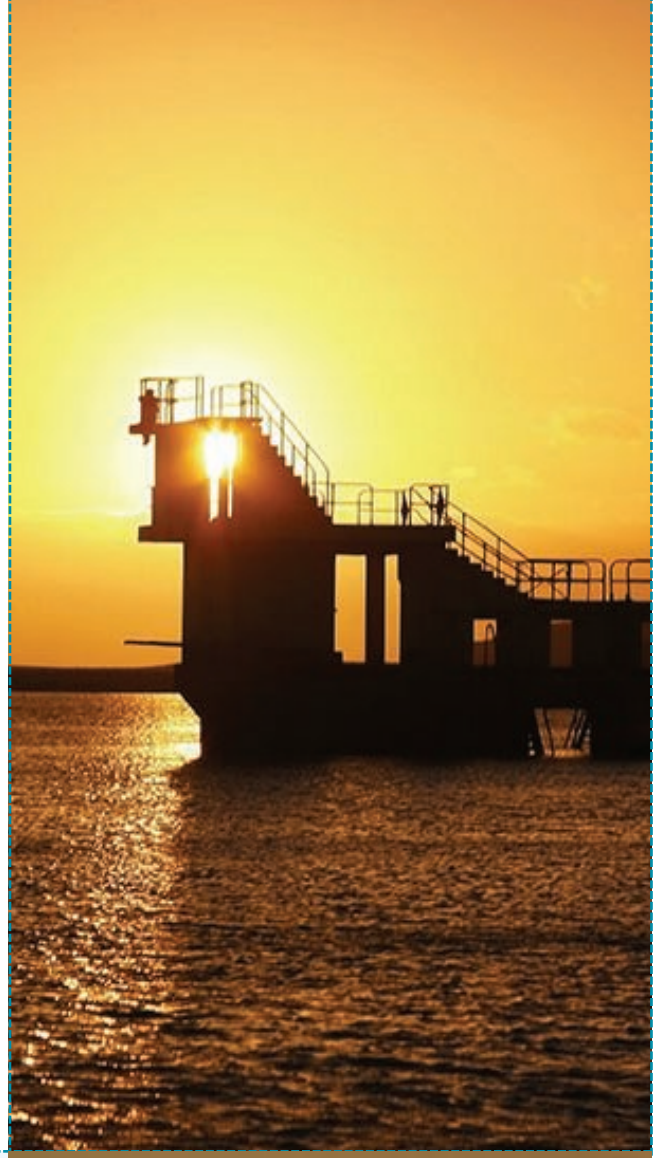
Exploratory studies, however, require high levels of qualitative research to investigate the thoughts feelings behind the quantitative statistics. Two methods of qualitative research were chosen for this study – focus groups deliberations and personal in-depth interviews. The former were conducted with representatives from the following sectors: the arts, tourism, professions, public sector, small and medium sized enterprises and the youth and hospitality sectors. Respondents were asked a number of questions but were given scope and time to express their feelings on the issues raised and further investigation into attitudes and ideas were facilitated.

Personal in-depth interviews were conducted with members of the business community in various sectors and with elected public representatives and officials.
The three main objectives of the in-depth interviews were:
To obtain an insight into respondents attitudes and views on the subject matter;
To gain a practical insight as to where the respondents felt their role and the role of their organisation was in the project;
To understand their opinions on the mechanisms and practicalities of operating an official bilingual city status.

Both qualitative and quantitative data has been analysed with a view to gaining an overall understanding of the answers to the questions posed under the research objectives. Therefore, when statistics are used in this report, the reader may assume that these statistics derive from the quantitative research (street survey). When statistics are not given, readers may assume that the information derives from the

Sa chás nach luaitear staitisticí, féadfaidh an léitheoir glacadh leis go n-eascraíonn an fhaisnéis sin ón taighde cáilíochtúil (na grúpaí fócais agus na hagallaimh). Roghnaíodh na modhanna taighde seo mar go gcomhlánaíonn siad a chéile – soláthraíonn an suirbhé sonraí staitistiúla faoi thuairimí an phobail agus déanann na grúpaí fócais iniúchadh agus scrúdú ar na smaointe atá mar chúlra ag na sonraí staitistiúla.

Baineadh úsáid as réimsí éagsúla chun anailís staitistiúil a dhéanamh ar an suirbhé. Cláraíodh freagróirí an tsuirbhé de réir critéir éagsúla. Ba é an príomhchritéar, áfach, an freagra a tugadh ar cheist 1: Cárb as duit? Féadfar glacadh leis go dtagraíonn 'Freagróirí Chathair na Gaillimhe' do na daoine sin a d'fhreagair 'Cathair na Gaillimhe', agus 'Freagróirí Chontae na Gaillimhe' do na daoine sin a d'fhreagair 'Contae na Gaillimhe', agus mar sin de. Chun críche na hanailíse, áfach, níor cláraíodh freagróirí ó Phoblacht na hÉireann agus freagróirí ó Thuaisceart Éireann sa ghrúpa céanna. Beartaíodh iad a chlárú i ngrúpaí ar leith ós rud é nach bhfuil an Ghaeilge ina hábhar éigeantach i gcóras oideachais Thuaisceart Éireann. Lena chois sin, rinneadh idirdhealú idir freagróirí Thuaisceart Éireann agus freagróirí an Ríochta Aontaithe mar go bhfuil teagmháil dhifriúil acu leis an nGaeilge. Mar shampla, is ábhar roghnach í an Ghaeilge i roinnt scoileanna sa Tuaisceart, tá meáin Ghaeilge agus dhátheangacha ar fáil agus d'fhéadfadh sé go mbeadh fios maith ag roinnt freagróirí ó Thuaisceart Éireann ar an teanga, cé nach mbeadh siad féin in ann í a labhairt.



qualitative research (focus groups and in-depth interviews). These research methods were chosen to complement each other – the survey to give statistical data on the views of the population and focus groups to probe and explore the feelings behind the statistical data.

Statistical analysis of the survey was done on a range of different levels. Respondents were categorised in various ways, the main one being how the respondent answered question 1: Where are you from? It may be assumed that the terms 'Galway city respondents' refers to those who answered 'Galway city', 'Galway county respondents' are those who answered 'Galway county' etc. For the purposes of analysis, respondents from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland were categorised separately. This measure was employed because Irish is not a compulsory subject in the Northern Irish education system. However, Northern Irish respondents were separated from UK respondents because they may have a greater or different exposure to Irish than UK respondents: for example, Irish is an optional subject in some schools, Irish Language and bilingual media are available in Northern Ireland and some Northern Irish respondents may be very familiar with the language, even if not Irish speakers themselves.

Gaillimh mar Chathair Dhátheangach

Ní coincheap nua atá sa smaoineamh Gaillimh a aithint mar chathair dhátheangach agus mheas freagróirí ó gach uile cheantar go raibh ciall ag baint leis an gcoincheap sin. I ngeall ar chomh cóngarach agus atá Gaeltacht na Gaillimhe don chathair agus i ngeall ar chúinsí cultúrtha eile, m.sh. an cháil atá bainte amach ag Cathair na Gaillimhe sna healaíona agus sa cheol traidisiúnta, d'admhaigh freagróirí an tsuirbhé go bhfuil bunchloch ag an gcathair cheana féin sa dátheangachas. Ba mhinic a luadh gurb í 'Gaillimh cathair na Gaeilge' agus ba léir do na freagróirí go bhfuil ceangal láidir idir Ghaillimh, na healaíona agus an teanga.

Nuair a ceistíodh daoine ón gcathair faoinar cathair dhátheangach í Cathair na Gaillimhe cheana féin, fuarthas freagra dearfach go leor ar an iomlán. Thug 52% le fios gurb ea, 33% nach ea agus bhí 15% gan tuairim ar bith. Is é an grúpa is dearfaí faoin gceist seo na freagróirí ón nGaeltacht a d'fhreagair i nGaeilge. Thug 65% díobh le fios gur cathair dhátheangach í Gaillimh, agus dúirt 35% nach ea. B'fhéidir gur comhartha iad na figiúirí seo ar dhearcadh an Ghaeilgeora sa chathair. Thabharfadh an duine le Gaeilge níos mó suntais do sheirbhísí atá ar fáil agus do chomharthaí atá le feiceáil sa teanga ar fud na cathrach. A mhalairt scéil a bhí ag cuairteoirí ó Mheiriceá Thuaidh a léirigh an dearcadh is diúltaí faoin gceist seo. Dúirt 53% díobh nach cathair dhátheangach í Gaillimh, 31% gurb ea agus 16% gan tuairim ar bith. D'fhéadfaí an líon mór freagróirí gan tuairim ar bith, sna grúpaí uile, a lua leis an easpa tuisceana ar céard is cathair dhátheangach ann, nó le heaspa eolais faoina bhfuil na tréithe sin atá riachtanach, dar leis na freagróirí, chun aitheantas dátheangach a bhaint amach le fáil i gCathair na Gaillimhe.

Nuair a pléadh staid an dátheangachais i nGaillimh faoi láthair, labhair rannpháirtithe na ngrúpaí fócais faoin 'dearcadh' náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta i leith Chathair na Gaillimhe mar chathair atá 'níos Gaelaí' ná aon chathair eile sa tír. Bhí amhras ar roinnt freagróirí faoin méid 'fírinne' atá sa dearcadh sin agus lean siad orthu ag rá go bhféadfadh difríocht a bheith ann idir 'fíorchumas' Gaeilge na Gaillimhe agus an dearcadh i leith na cathrach mar chathair Ghaelach. Ghlac daoine eile leis, áfach, gur dearcadh cruinn é an dearcadh sin agus rinneadh tagairt do ghné na Gaeilge mar dhlúthpháirt de shaol na cathrach. Ní raibh na freagróirí a chaith amhras ar cé chomh fíor agus atá an 'dearcadh' sin ábalta níos mó a rá faoi, ach d'aontaigh siad, áfach, go bhfuil coincheap an dátheangachais níos ábhartha do Ghaillimh ná d'aon áit eile sa tír.

Galway City as a Setting

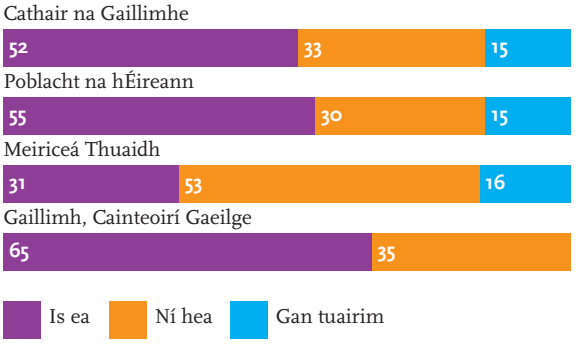
The context of Galway as a setting for a bilingual city made sense to respondents from all areas and was obviously not a new idea to them. The proximity to the Galway Gaeltacht and cultural factors, such as Galway city's reputation for the arts and Irish music, led respondents to acknowledge an existing foundation for bilingualism in Galway city. Comments such as 'Galway is the recognised city for the Irish language' and strong associations between Galway, the Arts and the language were obvious and frequently communicated by respondents.

When asked if Galway city *is* a bilingual city, Galway city respondents were fairly positive on this question, with 52% saying it is, 33% saying it is not and the remaining 15% saying they do not know. The group that was most positive on this subject were Gaeltacht respondents who answered in Irish: 65% said that Galway is a bilingual city, and the remaining 35% said it is not. This may be an indication of the perspective of the Irish speaker in the city who may be more likely than any other to notice the availability and visibility of the language throughout the city environment. In contrast, North Americans were the least positive in their responses, with 53% saying Galway is not a bilingual city, 31% saying it is and 16% saying that they do not know. The relatively high level of 'don't know's' across the board could be attributed to a lack of understanding of what constitutes a bilingual city, or a lack of knowledge as to whether Galway has the characteristics respondents think is necessary for a city to be deemed bilingual.

In addressing the question of Galway's existing level of bilingualism, focus group participants discussed the national and international 'perception' of Galway as a city 'more Irish' than any other. Some respondents were doubtful as to the level of 'truth' in this perception and were quick to acknowledge that there may be a difference between Galway's Irish language 'real ability' and the perception of the city as a Gaelic city. However, others assumed the perception to be true and spoke of Galway city's Irish language aspect as a real and integral part of city life. Those who raised questions over whether this 'perception' holds true were unable to address the doubts they raised but nevertheless agreed that the concept of bilingualism was certainly more relevant for Galway than any other place in Ireland.

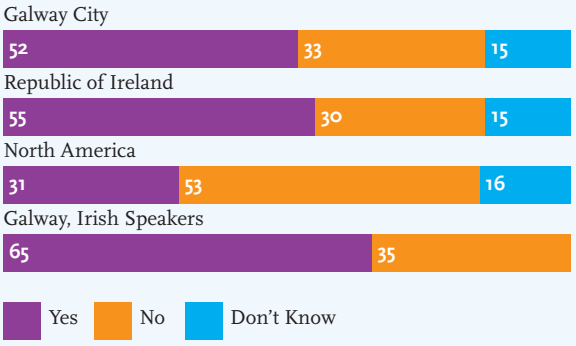
I ngeall ar chomh cóngarach agus atá Gaeltacht na Gaillimhe don chathair agus i ngeall ar chúinsí cultúrtha eile, m.sh. an cháil atá bainte amach ag Cathair na Gaillimhe sna healaíona agus sa cheol traidisiúnta, d'admhaigh freagróirí an tsuirbhé go bhfuil bunchloch ag an gcathair cheana féin sa dátheangachas.

Dearcadh an phobail faoinar cathair dhátheangach í Gaillimh
Foinse: Freagróirí Chathair na Gaillimhe, Phoblacht na hÉireann agus Mheiriceá Thuaidh (316)



The proximity to the Galway Gaeltacht and cultural factors, such as Galway city's reputation for the arts and Irish music, led respondents to acknowledge an existing foundation for bilingualism in Galway city.

Opinion of whether Galway is currently a bilingual city
Base: Galway City, Republic of Ireland and North American respondents (316)



Cad is brí le Dátheangachas?

Thug freagróirí an tsuirbhé le fios láithreach go bhfuil gaol idir an dátheangachas agus dhá theanga agus i dtéarmaí cáilíochtúla, chonaic 76% de na freagróirí gaol idir an focal 'dátheangach' i gCathair na Gaillimhe agus na teangacha Béarla agus Gaeilge. Ghlac formhór fhreagróirí na cathrach (81%) leis gur ionann an dátheangachas agus Béarla-Gaeilge, agus ghlac 93% de fhreagróirí na Gaeltachta leis an smaoineamh céanna.
Nuair a ceistíodh rannpháirtithe na ngrúpaí fócais faoin ábhar seo agus faoin mbrí atá le dátheangachas cuireadh tús le mionphlé ar an tslí phraiticiúil chun an dátheangachas a chur i bhfeidhm. Is léir nach dtugtar aon dearcadh bogchroíoch ná rómánsúil le fios i leith an dátheangachais mar choincheap nó mar sprioc, agus go bhfuil a dtuiscint ar an dátheangachas nascaithe go dlúth leis an taobh praiticiúil de. Tugadh an deis dóibh siúd a d'fhreagair ceisteanna an tsuirbhé tuairimí breise a nochtadh agus cúiseanna a thabhairt lena gcuid freagraí. Baineann formhór na dtuairimí sin leis an teanga labhartha – bhain 21% de na tuairimí uile leis an teanga labhartha i gcomhthéacs éigin (dearfach agus diúltach araon), agus is é seo an céatadán is airde tuairimí a raibh baint acu le téama amháin (m.sh. tá na téamaí eile ar fad ilroinnte i ngrúpaí ag déanamh suas níos lú ná 21% d'iomlán líon na dtuairimí atá tugtha). Is féidir glacadh leis, dá bhrí sin, ó na tuairimí a bailíodh gurb é gné labhartha na teanga an ghné is ábhartha agus an chéad ghné den teanga ar a smaoinigh na freagróirí nuair a ceistíodh iad faoi theangacha agus faoin dátheangachas.

Chun sainmhíniú a fháil ar thimpeallacht dhátheangach i suíomh uirbeach dhírigh an taighde ar ghnéithe éagsúla de shaol na cathrach chun scrúdú a dhéanamh ar an tionchar a bheadh ag an dátheangachas ar an gceantar agus ar an tslí ina rachadh an pobal i gcoitinne i ngleic leis. Rinne na grúpaí fócais plé ar réimse leathan ábhar a bhaineann leis an dátheangachas – comharthaíocht, na meáin áitiúla, biachláir, logainmneacha, ábhar tionscnaimh agus seirbhísí. Chuir siad a gcuid smaointe in iúl le fonn agus ba léir go raibh tuairimí acu faoin tslí inar chóir feidhm a bhaint as an dátheangachas. I dtéarmaí cainníochtúla, áfach, iarradh ar na freagróirí fachtóirí[1] a rangú de réir a dtábhachta agus a riachtanais do chathair dhátheangach. Seo a leanas na fachtóirí sin:

1. Dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach
2. Dhá theanga le cloisteáil ar na sráideanna
3. Imeachtaí sóisialta in dhá theanga
4. Seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phríobháideach
5. Seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phoiblí
6. Na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga

Ba ghnách gur tugadh tosaíocht do na fachtóirí céanna ó thaobh tábhachta agus ó thaobh riachtanais de. Is é an fachtóir is tábhachtaí, dar leis na freagróirí uile, 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga'. Is iad an dara agus an tríú fachtóir is tábhachtaí, faoi seach: 'seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phoiblí' agus 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach'.

Nuair a hiarradh ar na freagróirí na sé fhachtóir a rangú de réir riachtanais de, tugadh an tosaíocht arís do 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga'. Is iad an dara agus an tríú fachtóir is riachtanaí, faoi seach: 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach' agus 'dhá theanga le cloisteáil ar na sráideanna'.

Nuair a ceistíodh freagróirí a bhfuil cónaí orthu sa chathair faoi thábhacht na sé fhachtóir thuasluaite do ghnáthfheidhmiú cathrach dátheangaí, tugadh le fios gurb iad an dá fhachtóir is tábhachtaí 'seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phoiblí' agus 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga'. Mheas 74% de na freagróirí sin go raibh an dá fhachtóir seo an-tábhachtach nó tábhachtach. Fuarthas an toradh céanna nuair a ceistíodh iad faoi riachtanas na bhfachtóirí do chathair dhátheangach.

What is Bilingualism?

Respondents immediately associated bilingualism with two languages and in qualitative terms, 76% associated the word 'bilingual' in Galway city with the English and Irish languages. Most Galway city respondents (81%) assumed bilingualism meant English and Irish, with 93% being the corresponding figure for Gaeltacht respondents.
Focus groups respondents, when asked about this issue and what bilingualism means, began a detailed discussion of the practical operation of bilingualism. There is obviously no emotional or romantic view of bilingualism as an idea or an aspiration, and their understanding of it is inextricably linked to its practical operation. Survey respondents were given the opportunity to add comments and give reasons for their answers and on analysis, the comments mostly relate to the spoken language – 21% of all comments related to the spoken language in some context (whether positive or negative), which is the highest percentage of comments on any one theme (i.e. all other themes are fragmented in groups totalling less than 21% of the total number of comments given). We may, therefore, assume from these comments that the oral aspect of the language is the most relevant and immediately comes to mind when respondents are asked about languages and bilingualism.

In looking to define a bilingual landscape for an urban environment in more depth, the research drew on various aspects of city life to explore how bilingualism would affect it and how the general public would respond to it. Focus group respondents discussed a wide variety of areas pertaining to bilingualism – signage, local media, menus, placenames, promotional material and services. They were enthusiastic in giving ideas and obviously had opinions about how bilingualism should function. In quantitative terms, respondents were asked to rate factors[1] according to both their level of importance and their necessity to a bilingual city. These six factors were:

1. Two languages visibly displayed throughout the city
2. Hearing two languages on the city streets
3. Social events in two languages
4. Service in two languages available from the private sector
5. Service in two languages available from the public sector
6. Media available in two languages

Generally those six factors that ranked high in levels of importance also ranked high in necessity. The most important factor for all respondents was 'media available in two languages' and second to that was 'service in two languages available from the public sector'. 'Two languages visibly displayed throughout the city' was ranked third in importance.

In ranking the six factors according to their necessity, however, respondents ranked 'media available in two languages' first, 'two languages visibly displayed throughout the city' second, and 'hearing the language on city streets' third.

When Galway city respondents were asked how important the six above listed factors were for a bilingual city to function, they ranked 'bilingual service in the public sector' and 'media available in two languages' jointly as the most important, with 74% of respondents saying they were both very important or important.

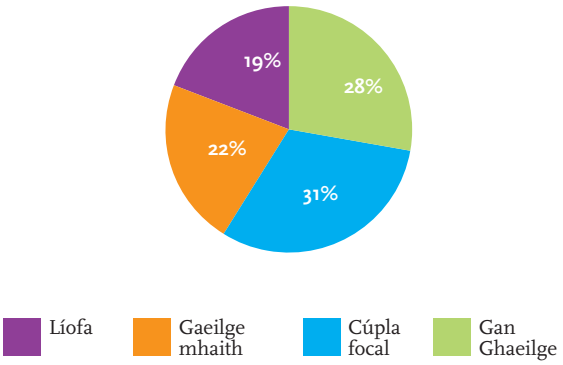
Na fachtóirí a bhaineann le cathair dhátheangach

1. Dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach *(dhá theanga le taobh a chéile ar ghnáthchomharthaí na cathrach, m.sh. ar aghaidheanna siopaí, ar chomharthaí treo, i bhfógraíocht, srl., ionas go mbeidh timpeallacht dhátheangach nochtaithe don tsúil)*
2. Dhá theanga le cloisteáil ar na sráideanna *(an dá theanga le cloisteáil in áiteanna poiblí ar fud na cathrach: ar na sráideanna, sna tábhairní, bialanna agus siopaí srl. ionas go mbeidh an Béarla agus an Ghaeilge le cloisteáil go gnách ag gach uile dhuine sa chathair, agus go mbeidh an clostimpeallacht dátheangach)*
3. Imeachtaí sóisialta in dhá theanga *(imeachtaí sóisialta a eagrú agus a chur ar fáil i gceann de na teangacha nó sa dá theanga, go comhuaineach nó ag amanna ar leith, ionas go mbeidh rogha teanga ag an bpobal dá n-imeachtaí sóisialta)*
4. Seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phríobháideach *(seirbhís i nGaeilge nó i mBéarla a bheith ar fáil i gcuideachtaí príobháideacha, m.sh. siopaí, bialanna, dochtúirí srl., ionas go mbeidh rogha teanga ag an bpobal agus iad i mbun gnó sa chathair)*
5. Seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phoiblí *(seirbhís i nGaeilge nó i mBéarla a bheith ar fáil in eagraíochtaí poiblí, m.sh. oifigí an údaráis áitiúil, comhlachtaí stáit, na Gardaí srl. ionas go mbeidh rogha teanga ag an bpobal agus iad i mbun gnó leis an stát)*
6. Na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga *(go mbeidh na nuachtáin, an raidió, na meáin ar líne srl. ar fáil i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla, ionas gur féidir leis an bpobal úsáid a bhaint as na meáin ina rogha teanga)*

1 Roghnaigh Gaillimh le Gaeilge na fachtóirí seo trí smaointe éagsúla agus taithí a bhí ag an eagraíocht a chur san áireamh. Orthu sin bhí an chuairt a tugadh ar Bolzano/Bozen agus taighde bunaidh agus tánaisteach a rinneadh don Straitéis 2006-2008. Cé gur iarradh ar na freagróirí aon fhachtóir tábhachtach eile a mholadh, níor tugadh aon fhachtóir breise le fios.

An leibhéal cumas Gaeilge

Foinse: Na freagróirí uile (492)



Tábhacht agus riachtanas fachtóirí i gcathair dhátheangach

Foinse: Na freagróirí uile (492)

	% Riachtanach	% An-tábhachtach nó tábhachtach
Dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir sa chathair	90	74
Dhá theanga le cloisteáil ar na sráideanna	88	73
Imeachtaí sóisialta in dhá theanga	83	66
Seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga i siopaí/ gnólachtaí	84	70
Seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga in eagrais phoiblí	87	74
Na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga	90	77

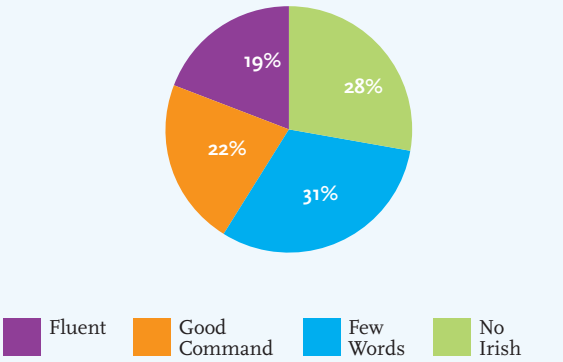
Factors for a Bilingual City

1. Two languages visibly displayed throughout the city *(the visibility of two languages side by side in general city signage, for example on shop fronts, directional signs, advertisements, etc., so that the visual landscape is bilingual)*
2. Hearing two languages on the city streets *(the hearing of both languages in public places around the city: on the streets, in pubs and restaurants, shops etc. so that both English and Irish are commonly heard by all in the city, and that the aural landscape is bilingual)*
3. Social events in two languages *(the organisation and availability of social events in either or both languages, simultaneously or separately, so that the public have a language choice for social activities)*
4. Service in two languages available from the private sector *(the availability of service in either Irish or English from private companies, e.g. shops, restaurants, doctors etc., so that the public have a language choice when conducting business in the city)*
5. Service in two languages available from the public sector *(the availability of service in either Irish or English from public organisations, such as local authority offices, government bodies, Gardaí etc., so that the public have a language choice when conducting business with the state)*
6. Media available in two languages *(the availability of newspapers, radio, online media etc. in Irish and English, so that the public may use and avail of media in the language of their choice)*

1 The six factors were chosen by Gaillimh le Gaeilge taking various considerations and previous experience into account, including the visit to Bolzano/Bozen and primary and secondary research undertaken for the Strategy 2006-2008. Although respondents were asked in the survey to suggest any other important factors, no other factors were suggested.

Level of Irish Language Proficiency

Base: All Respondents (492)



Importance and necessity of factors in a bilingual city

Base: All respondents (492)

	% Necessary	% Very important or important
Two languages visibly displayed on city streets	90	74
Hear two languages on the city streets	88	73
Social events in two languages	83	66
Service in two languages available in shops/businesses	84	70
Service in two languages available from public bodies	87	74
Media available in two languages	90	77

Tugadh an tosaíocht do 'seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phoiblí' agus 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga', agus is é an dara fachtóir is riachtanaí, dar leo, 'dhá theanga le cloisteáil ar na sráideanna'. Mar chomparáid, bhí na freagróirí ón gcuid eile de Phoblacht na hÉireann den tuairim gurb iad an dá fhachtóir is riachtanaí 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach' (78%) agus 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga' (77%). Bhí 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach' ar an gceathrú fachtóir ba riachtanaí dar le muintir na cathrach, agus mheas 69% díobh go raibh an fachtóir seo an-tábhachtach nó tábhachtach. Nuair a hiarradh ar fhreagróirí ó Phoblacht na hÉireann na fachtóirí a rangú de réir riachtanais de, nochtadh tuairim beagán difriúil agus is iad na chéad trí fhachtóir is riachtanaí faoi seach, dar leo, 'dhá theanga le cloisteáil ar na sráideanna', 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach', agus 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga'. Bhí freagróirí uile Mheiriceá Thuaidh (100%) den tuairim go raibh an fachtóir 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga' an-tábhachtach nó tábhachtach agus luaigh 90% díobh 'an-tábhacht' nó 'tábhacht' leis an bhfachtóir 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach'. Nuair a iarradh orthu na fachtóirí a rangú de réir riachtanais de, áfach, tugadh an tosaíocht do 'dhá theanga le cloisteáil ar na sráideanna' agus is é an dara fachtóir is riachtanaí, dar leo, 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach'.

Tá sé spéisiúil nár thug pobal na cathrach féin mórán tosaíochta don fhachtóir 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach' (an ceathrú fachtóir is tábhachtaí), agus gur chuir freagróirí eile, cuairteoirí chuig an gcathair den chuid is mó, an-bhéim ar an ngné seo. Tá sé tábhachtach a lua, freisin, go bhfuil na difríochtaí idir na sé fhachtóir ó thaobh riachtanais agus tábhachta de seasmhach go leor, seachas sa sampla thuasluaite. As na freagróirí uile a ceistíodh, bhí 90% den tuairim go raibh 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga' agus 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach' riachtanach agus d'aontaigh 77% agus 74%, faoi seach, go bhfuil na fachtóirí sin an-tábhachtach agus tábhachtach. Is féidir miondifríochtaí a thabhairt faoi deara freisin idir na haoisghrúpaí éagsúla a d'fhreagair an suirbhé agus an tábhacht a leag siad ar na sé fhachtóir faoi seach. Ba ghnách leis na freagróirí ab óige (15-30 bliain d'aois) 'tábhacht' a lua le fachtóir agus le freagróirí níos sine (30+) 'an-tábhacht' a lua le níos mó fachtóirí. D'fhéadfadh an claonadh sin bheith ina chomhartha go bhfuil tuairimí níos láidre ag daoine níos sine. Dar leis na haoisghrúpaí ab óige is é an fachtóir 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga' an fachtóir is tábhachtaí. Mheas aoisghrúpaí níos sine, áfach, gurb é 'dhá theanga le cloisteáil ar na sráideanna' an fachtóir is tábhachtaí. Thug gach aoisghrúpa an tosaíocht is lú don fhachtóir 'imeachtaí sóisialta in dhá theanga'.

This result was replicated in terms of how necessary the factors are for a bilingual city, with 'service in two languages available from the public sector' and 'media available in two languages' rated jointly first and 'hearing two languages on the city streets' second. By way of comparison, respondents from the rest of the Republic of Ireland ranked 'two languages visibly displayed throughout the city' (78%) as most important and 'media available in two languages' second most important (77%). Galway city people ranked 'two languages visibly displayed throughout the city' only fourth in importance, with 69% of them saying it is very important or important. In terms of the necessary six factors, Republic of Ireland respondents ranked the six factors slightly differently, ranking 'hearing the language on city streets' the most necessary, 'two languages visibly displayed throughout the city' second and 'media available in two languages' third. On the other hand, all (100%) North American respondents ranked 'media available in two languages' as either very important or important and 90% of them said that 'two languages visibly displayed throughout the city' is very important or important. However in ranking the necessity of the six factors, they classified 'hearing the language on city streets' the highest and 'two languages visibly displayed throughout the city' in second place.

It is interesting to note that Galway city respondents ranked 'two languages visibly displayed throughout the city' so low (fourth in importance), while other respondents, generally visitors to the city, ranked it so highly. It is also important to note that the difference between the six factors that are deemed necessary and those that are important are fairly consistent, except for this example above. Out of all respondents, 90% said 'media available in two languages' and 'two languages visibly displayed throughout the city' were necessary and 77% and 74% said they were very important or important, respectively.

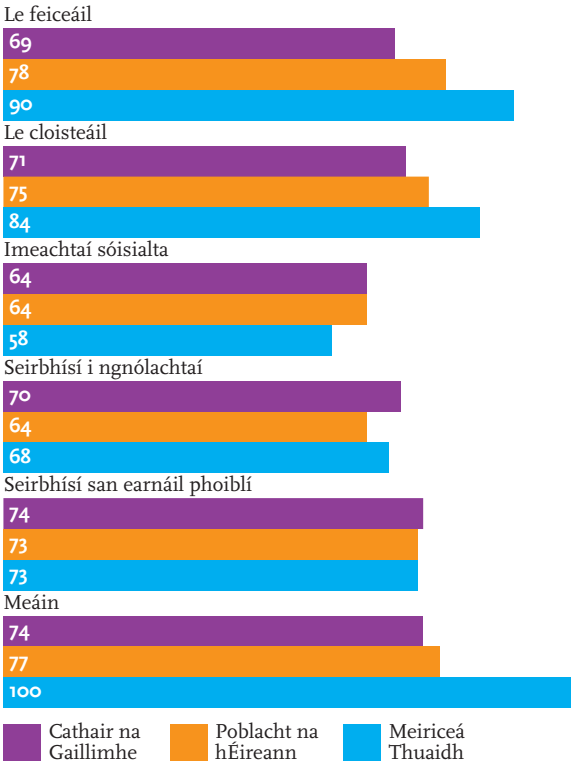
In terms of respondents' age groups and their perceived importance of the various six factors, there are some slight differences to be noted. Younger respondents (15-30 years old) were generally more likely to rate a factor as 'important' and older respondents (30+) gave more factors the highest ranking of 'very important', perhaps an indication of stronger opinions among older generations. The younger age groups ranked 'media available in two languages' as the most important factor, while the older age groups ranked 'hearing the language on city streets' the most important factor. All age groups ranked 'social events in two languages' as the least important factor.

Focus group respondents made some important assumptions about the definition of bilingualism. In particular, business-centred focus groups were apprehensive about how the city business community would provide a comprehensive service through Irish as part of a bilingual policy. Participants obviously assumed that bilingualism not only means that both languages are equally visible throughout the bilingual environment but also that the public in that environment have an equal opportunity to conduct their business with the public sector or private sector in the language of their choice. The business community were most concerned about the capacity of businesses in the city to provide service through Irish to customers who may demand it. They doubted, moreover, if there is a large enough employment pool of people with a basic level of fluency in Irish to provide such services.

Bhí tuairimí tábhachtacha faoin sainmhíniú ar an dátheangachas ag na daoine a ghlac páirt sna grúpaí fócais. Bhí na grúpaí fócais a dhírigh ar chúrsaí gnó amhrasach faoin gcaoi a soláthródh pobal gnó na cathrach seirbhís chuimsitheach trí Ghaeilge mar chuid den bheartas dátheangach. Is léir gur glacadh leis le linn na seisiún seo, nach ionann an dátheangachas agus dhá theanga atá le feiceáil ar bhonn cothrom sa timpeallacht dhátheangach ach, freisin, go mbeidh deis chothrom ag an bpobal sa timpeallacht sin gnó a dhéanamh leis an earnáil phoiblí nó leis an earnáil phríobháideach ina rogha teanga. Bhí imní ar an bpobal gnó faoi chumas ghnólachtaí na cathrach seirbhís a sholáthar trí Ghaeilge do chustaiméirí a d'éilíodh a leithéid. Lena chois sin, léirigh siad a n-amhras faoina bhfuil dóthain daoine ar fáil le bunleibhéal líofachta Gaeilge a d'fhéadfadh na seirbhísí sin a sholáthar. Thug siad le fios go raibh imní orthu faoin tionchar a bheadh ag an mbeartas sin ar a gcuid beartas earcaíochta, costas, cearta fostaíochta agus faoi na deacrachtaí a bheadh ag gnólachtaí beaga coinníollacha an bheartais a chomhlíonadh.

Is féidir buntuiscint a thabhairt faoi deara anseo: sa chás go mbronntar stádas dátheangach ar Chathair na Gaillimhe, tiocfaidh éileamh ó phobal labhartha na Gaeilge gnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge. Tabharfar le fios níos déanaí sa tuarascáil seo, áfach, nach bhfuil an bhuntuiscint sin chomh coitianta céanna i measc na gcainteoirí dúchais/líofa.

Fachtóirí a raibh 'tábhacht' nó 'an-tábhacht' ag baint leo do chathair dhátheangach
Foinse: Freagróirí Chathair na Gaillimhe, Phoblacht na hÉireann agus Mheiriceá Thuaidh (316)



They raised concerns over the possible effect on their recruitment policies, their costs, employment rights and the difficulties small businesses would have with this.

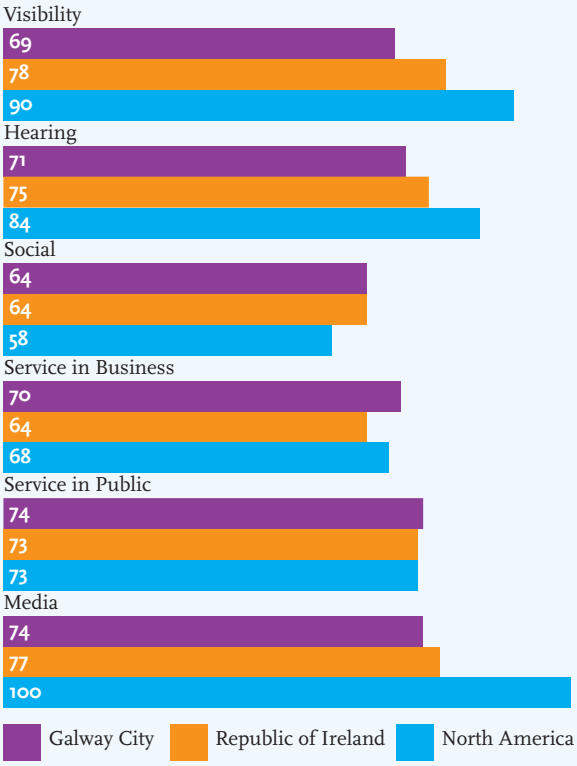
There is an underlying assumption here: if bilingual status is given to Galway city, then there will be a demand from the Irish speaking public to do their business through Irish. As we will see, this assumption is not so prevalent amongst native/fluent speakers.

In terms of Irish speakers[2] themselves and what they consider to be a bilingual city, there were some differences between them and non-Irish speakers. Irish speakers were, in general, more likely in the survey to attribute 'very important' to a factor, while other respondents tended to use the second highest level of 'important' to describe their views about a factor – again perhaps indicating a stronger view among Irish speakers. The factors most important to Irish speakers were 'service in two languages available from the public sector', 'media available in two languages' and 'two languages visibly displayed throughout the city'.

Fluent/native Irish speakers ranked 'service in two languages available from the public sector' first in importance (69% saying it is 'very important'), 'two languages visibly displayed throughout the city' second most important (65%) and the 'media available in two languages' third in importance (64%).

2 Irish speakers' are those respondents who said they have fluent or native Irish, or a good command of the language. 'Non-Irish speakers' are those who said they have a 'few words' or no spoken Irish at all. In some cases the four groups (fluent, good command, few words, no Irish) are differentiated from each other to illustrate differing answers according to amount of Irish spoken.

Factors rated 'important' or 'very important' for a bilingual city
Base: Galway City, Republic of Ireland and North American respondents (316)



I ndáil leis na cainteoirí Gaeilge[2] féin agus an tuiscint atá acu ar chathair dhátheangach, is léir ón suirbhé go bhfuil roinnt difríochtaí idir a dtuairimí agus tuairimí daoine gan Gaeilge ar bith. Ba ghnách leis na cainteoirí Gaeilge 'an-tábhacht' a lua le fachtóir nuair a bhí an claonadh ann i measc na bhfreagróirí eile 'tábhacht' a lua chun a ndearcadh a thabhairt le fios, rud a léiríonn, b'fhéidir, go bhfuil dearcadh níos láidre le tabhairt faoi deara i measc na gcainteoirí Gaeilge. Is iad na fachtóirí is tábhachtaí dar leis na cainteoirí Gaeilge: 'seirbhís ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phoiblí', 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga' agus 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach'.

Is iad an trí fhachtóir is tábhachtaí, dar leis na cainteoirí dúchais/líofa Gaeilge, faoi seach, 'seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phoiblí' (luaigh 69% 'an-tábhachtacht' leis an bhfachtóir seo),'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach' (65%) agus 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga' (64%). Tugadh beagán difríochta faoi deara i measc na bhfreagróirí sin a dúirt go raibh cumas maith Gaeilge acu. Is iad na gnéithe is tábhachtaí dar leosan, 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga' (57%), 'seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phoiblí' (53%) agus 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach' (46%). Tugadh le fios thuas go bhfuil an pobal gnó den tuairim go dtiocfaidh éileamh ó chainteoirí Gaeilge ar sheirbhísí i nGaeilge sa chás go mbronnfar stádas dátheangach ar an gcathair. Níl an dearcadh seo léirithe sa suirbhé, áfach, mar nár thug cainteoirí Gaeilge tosaíocht an-ard don fhachtóir 'seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phríobháideach' – dar leis na cainteoirí dúchais/líofa Gaeilge is é seo an ceathrú fachtóir is tábhachtaí, agus thug na freagróirí sin le 'cumas maith Gaeilge' agus le 'cúpla focal Gaeilge' an tosaíocht is lú don fhachtóir seo.

Is éard a tugadh faoi deara ón anailís a rinneadh ar na torthaí a d'eascair ó chruinnithe na ngrúpaí fócais agus ó na hagallaimh phearsanta nach bhfuil cainteoirí Gaeilge ag súil le seirbhís dhátheangach san earnáil phríobháideach.

Dar leis na daoine sin nach bhfuil aon chumas labhartha Gaeilge acu is é an fachtóir is tábhachtaí don dátheangachas, 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga'. Cuireadh na fachtóirí 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach' agus 'seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phoiblí' le chéile mar an dara fachtóir is tábhachtaí. Is iad na fachtóirí eile a lean iad de réir a dtábhachta: 'dhá theanga le cloisteáil ar na sráideanna', 'seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phríobháideach' agus 'imeachtaí sóisialta in dhá theanga'.

Tá an rangú sin an-chosúil leis an rangú a rinne na freagróirí a bhfuil 'cúpla focal Gaeilge' acu, ach amháin gur thug an grúpa gan aon Ghaeilge an ceathrú tosaíocht seachas an dara tosaíocht don fhachtóir 'seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phoiblí'. Tá sé spéisiúil go raibh gach aon ghrúpa, seachas na freagróirí sin le 'cumas maith' sa teanga, den tuairim gurb é 'imeachtaí sóisialta in dhá theanga' an fachtóir is lú tábhachta. Thug na freagróirí le cumas maith Gaeilge, áfach, níos lú tosaíochta do 'seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phríobháideach'. B'fhéidir gurb é seo an grúpa a d'fhéadfadh an leas is mó a bhaint as 'imeachtaí sóisialta in dhá theanga'.

2 Is ionann 'cainteoirí Gaeilge' agus freagróirí ar thug le fios go raibh Gaeilge líofa nó ó dhúchas acu, agus daoine a dúirt go raibh 'cumas maith' acu sa teanga. Is ionann 'daoine gan Gaeilge ar bith' agus daoine a dúirt go bhfuil cúpla focal acu nó atá gan aon chumas labhartha Gaeilge. I gcásanna ar leith, déantar idirdhealú idir na ceithre ghrúpa (líofa, cumas maith Gaeilge, cúpla focal, gan Ghaeilge) chun freagraí a léiriú de réir chumas Gaeilge na bhfreagróirí.

Those with a good command of the language differed slightly. They ranked the availability of 'media available in two languages' as most important (57%), 'service in two languages available from the public sector' second in importance (53%) and 'two languages visibly displayed throughout the city' third (46%). It was noted above that the business community assume there will be a demand from Irish speakers for service in Irish were bilingual status to be given to the city. However, this sentiment was not reflected in the survey, as Irish speakers ranked 'service in two languages available from the private sector' quite low in level of importance – fluent/native Irish speakers ranked it fourth, those with a 'good command' of Irish and with 'cúpla focal' ranked it last.

From analysis of the outcomes of the focus group deliberations and personal in-depth interviews it may also be concluded that Irish speakers do not expect a bilingual service from the private sector.

Non-Irish speakers ranked the six factors for bilingualism, those with no Irish ranked 'media available in two languages' highest in importance, 'two languages visibly displayed throughout the city' and 'service in two languages available from the public sector' joint second. They ranked 'hearing both languages in the city' third in importance, 'service in two languages available from the private sector' fourth, and 'social events in two languages' last.

They ranked factors almost identically to those who said they had 'cúpla focal', the only difference being that this group ranked 'service in two languages available from the public sector' fourth instead of second. Interestingly, all groups except those with a 'good command' of the language ranked 'social events in two languages' as the least important factor. Those with a 'good command' of Irish ranked it second last to 'service in two languages available from the private sector'. Perhaps this is the group that potentially stands to benefit the most from the availability of 'social events in two languages'.

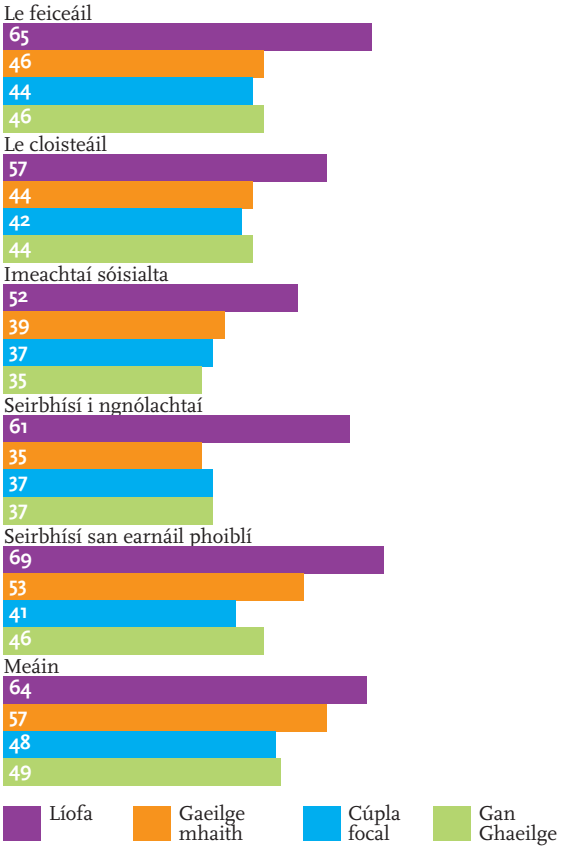
The only main difference between an Irish speaker's perspective and a non-Irish speaker's perspective, therefore, is that the latter ranked the 'media available in two languages' most important, while the Irish speaker ranked 'service in two languages available from the public sector' most important.

It should be noted here that the Irish government's implementation of the Official Languages Act 2003 has drawn much attention (particularly in the Irish-speaking media) to the provision of bilingual services in the public sector and this may have contributed to the level of awareness or perceived importance of this issue.

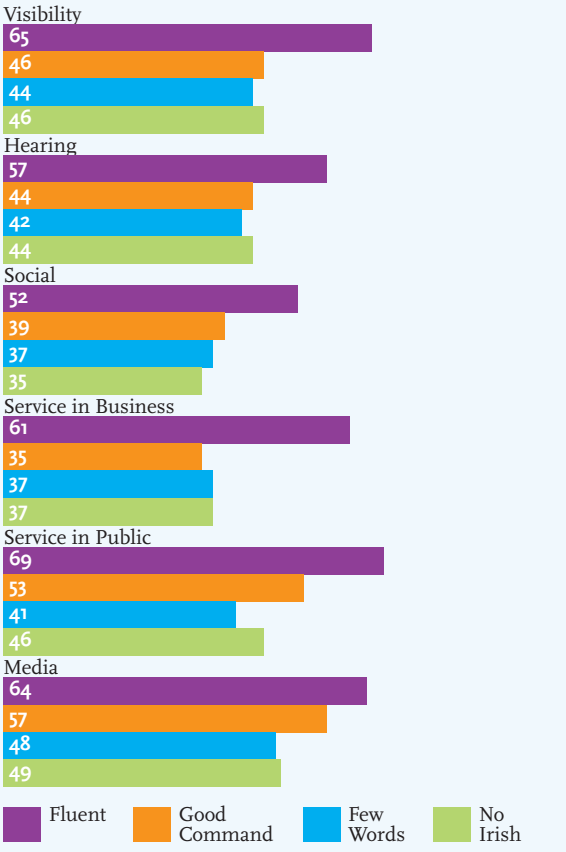
Is é an t-aon difríocht idir dearcadh na gcainteoirí Gaeilge agus dearcadh na bhfreagróirí gan Ghaeilge, dá bhrí sin, go bhfuil an dara grúpa den tuairim gurb é 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga' an fachtóir is tábhachtaí agus go dtugann an cainteoir Gaeilge an tosaíocht do 'seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phoiblí'.

Ba chóir a mheabhrú, ag an bpointe seo, gur chuir forfheidhmiú an Rialtais d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 béim (go háirithe sna meáin Ghaeilge) ar sholáthar seirbhísí dátheangacha san earnáil phoiblí agus gur chuidigh sé seo leis an leibhéal tuisceana i measc freagróirí agus leis an tábhacht a chuirtear ar an dátheangachas.

Fachtóirí a raibh 'an-tábhacht' ag baint leo do chathair dhátheangach de réir leibhéal cumas Gaeilge
Foinse: Na freagróirí uile (492)



Factors rated 'very important' for a bilingual city by level of Irish language proficiency
Base: All respondents (492)



Ba é an ghné chomhchoiteann idir cainteoirí Gaeilge agus daoine gan Ghaeilge sa suirbhé an tábhacht a cuireadh ar 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach'. Dar leis na cainteoirí Gaeilge agus na freagróirí gan Ghaeilge is é seo an dara gné is tábhachtaí, rud a léiríonn an tionchar láidir a bheadh aici ar phobal uile na cathrach. Bhí roinnt de na daoine a ghlac páirt sna grúpaí fócais den tuairim go bhféadfadh dearcthimpeallacht Chathair na Gaillimhe a bheith i bhfad níos dátheangaí agus go bhféadfaí a éifeacht ar chur chun cinn na teanga a mhéadú dá mbeadh an dátheangachas le tabhairt faoi deara i ngach uile réimse de shaol na cathrach, agus go mbeadh gach saghas gnó ag úsáid beartas comharthaíochta dátheangaí.

Cruthaíonn cás Bolzano/Bozen go bhfuil sin amhlaidh. Tá dearcthimpeallacht na cathrach iomlán dátheangach agus tugtar aitheantas cothrom don Ghearmáinis agus don Iodáilis – úsáidtear an chlómhéid chéanna don dá theanga agus ní bhíonn aon difríocht eatarthu ar aon chomhartha. Tá comhionannas teangacha le tabhairt faoi deara i ngach réimse de shaol na cathrach. Léiríonn na comharthaí ar chóimhéid agus an dá theanga ar taispeáint le taobh a chéile an meon atá i bhfeidhm i mBolzano/Bozen i dtaca le teangacha.

Is é an taithí atá ag Gaillimh le Gaeilge go gcreideann gnólachtaí agus údaráis áitiúla in Éirinn nach dtuigfear go héasca dhá theanga atá scríofa taobh le chéile nó go gcruthófar mearbhall mura ndéantar idirdhealú idir méid, stíl nó dath an chló, nó ar bhealach éigin eile. Léiríonn cás Bolzano/Bozen nach bhfuil sin amhlaidh agus, cé go bhfuil an dá theanga ar taispeáint ar chomhchéim, léifidh an léitheoir, gan stró ar bith, an teanga sin a thuigeann sé nó sí. Táthar den tuairim má chleachtar comhionannas teangacha sa dearcthimpeallacht agus má thaispeántar an dá theanga go soiléir chun an comhionannas sin a léiriú, go gcuideoidh sé go mór le timpeallacht dhátheangach na Gaillimhe.

Nuair a scrúdaítear na freagraí éagsúla ar thug na daoine a ghlac páirt sa taighde faoin tionchar a bheadh ag an dátheangachas ar Chathair na Gaillimhe agus ar an gcaoi a d'fhéadfaí é a shainmhíniú i gcomhthéacs na Gaillimhe, is léir go nochtann an taighde sin roinnt pointí tábhachtacha.

Níl aon amhras ach gurb é an bhuntuiscint ar an dátheangachas ná dhá theanga agus go smaoiníonn formhór na bhfreagróirí ar an nGaeilge agus ar an mBéarla nuair a chloiseann siad an focal 'dátheangach' i gCathair na Gaillimhe. Thairis sin, is iad na gnéithe is tábhachtaí, dar leis na freagróirí, a shainmhíníonn an timpeallacht dhátheangach – 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga', 'seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phoiblí', 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach' agus 'dhá theanga le cloisteáil ar na sráideanna'. Is beag difríocht atá ann idir thábhacht na bhfachtóirí sin de réir staitisticí éagsúla deimeagrafacha, cibé sean nó óg, cainteoir Gaeilge nó duine gan Ghaeilge, pobal dúchasach na Gaillimhe nó cuairteoirí. Is léir freisin nach bhfuil aon bhunús cuí le tuairim an phobail ghnó go mbeidh gá le seirbhís a sholáthar trí Ghaeilge agus go mbeidh éileamh ar an tseirbhís sin i gcathair oifigiúil dhátheangach. Cé gur mheas roinnt cainteoirí Gaeilge go mbeadh tábhacht le seirbhís den saghas sin, d'fhéadfaí glacadh leis anseo mar sprioc fhadtéarmach feabhais seachas mar ghné atá riachtanach do stádas dátheangach. Fachtóir eile air ar cuireadh níos lú béime ná mar a bhí súil leis ag an tús is ea go mbeadh teacht ar imeachtaí sóisialta sa dá theanga.
Is réimse é seo air ar chuir a lán eagraíochtaí go leor béime go dtí seo, eagraíochtaí a oibríonn chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn le

The common factor among Irish and non-Irish speakers in the survey was the importance of the 'two languages visibly displayed throughout the city'. This was ranked second in importance by both Irish and non-Irish speakers, emphasising its important impact on the city community as a whole. Some focus group participants expressed the view that Galway city could be much more visually bilingual and that its effect on the promotion of the language might be enhanced greatly if bilingualism could be seen in all areas of the city, with all types of businesses adhering to a visual bilingual policy.

The case of Bolzano/Bozen certainly attests to this. The visual cityscape is completely bilingual and gives equal recognition to German and Italian – no one lanaguage is printed smaller or made to look different on any sign. Linguistic equality is all around. Signs of equal size and both languages alongside each other speak volumes about the attitude in Bolzano/Bozen to languages.

It is Gaillimh le Gaeilge's experience that businesses and local authorities in Ireland generally presume that two languages side by side will not be understood or will cause confusion unless one is differentiated by size, font, colour or some other means. From the case of Bolzano/Bozen it is clear that this is not the case and that even though two languages are displayed equally, a reader will automatically read the language they understand. It is felt that both the function of practicing linguistic equality in a visual environment and displaying clearly both languages to illustrate that equalilty, would be extremely beneficial to Galway city's bilingual environment.

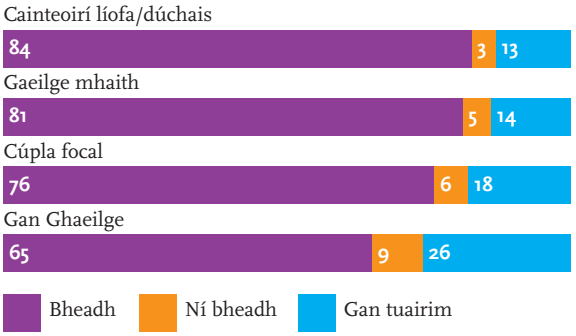
In examining responses to the various factors and assumptions made by research respondents regarding what bilingualism would mean to Galway city and how it could be defined in the context of Galway city, this research has identified a number of important points.

It can certainly be said that the basic understanding of bilingualism is of two languages and the majority of respondents assume Irish and English when they hear the word 'bilingual' in Galway city. Beyond that, the factors to which respondents attributed the most importance can be seen to define the bilingual landscape to some extent – 'media available in two languages', 'service in two languages from the public sector', 'two languages displayed throughout the city' and 'hearing two languages on the city streets'. These factors are common in their importance to various demographics, young and old, Irish speakers and non-Irish speakers, Galway natives and visitors to the city. An assumption made by the business community that the provision of service in Irish is necessary and will be demanded by Irish speakers in an official bilingual city has been shown to be a sentiment not shared by Irish speakers. Although some Irish speakers did rate it as important, it can be viewed here as a long-term goal of excellence rather than a necessary factor for bilingual status. Another factor which has proven to be of less importance than perhaps previously thought is the availability of social events in both languages.

himeachtaí ar bheag agus ar mhórscála. Maidir le freagróirí an tsuirbhé, áfach, is é seo an fachtóir air ar cuireadh an bhéim is lú, i gcomparáid leis na fachtóirí eile a luadh. Chuir rannpháirtithe na ngrúpaí fócais béim ar chomhluadar sóisialta níos neamhfhoirmiúla agus níos coitianta chun an Ghaeilge agus an Béarla a úsáid sa chathair.

Chuir na rannpháirtithe in iúl go bhféadfadh dearcthimpeallacht Chathair na Gaillimhe a bheith i bhfad níos dátheangaí agus go bhféadfaí a éifeacht ar chur chun cinn na teanga a mhéadú dá mbeadh an dátheangachas le tabhairt faoi deara i ngach uile réimse de shaol na cathrach, agus go mbeadh gach saghas gnó ag úsáid beartas comharthaíochta dátheangaí.

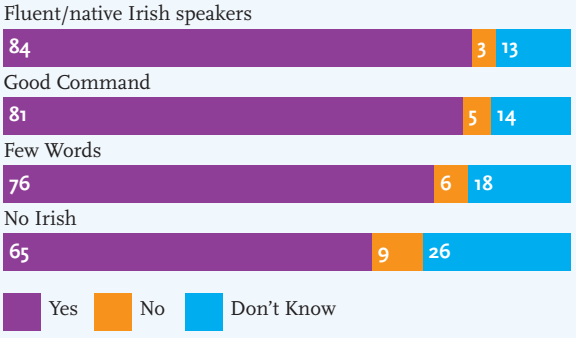
An dearcadh faoina mbeadh stádas dátheangach buntáisteach do Ghaillimh de réir leibhéal cumas Gaeilge
Foinse: Na cainteoirí líofa Gaeilge uile (92)



This has been an area upon which many Irish language promotion organisations have placed much emphasis, with the organisation of both small and large scale events. Survey respondents, however, ranked it as the least important factor in comparison to the other factors mentioned and focus group respondents placed an emphasis on a much more accessible and less formal social environment for the use of Irish and English in the city.

Participants expressed the view that Galway could be much more visually bilingual and that its effect on the promotion of the language might be enhanced greatly if bilingualism could be seen in all areas of the city, with all types of businesses adhering to a visual bilingual policy.

Whether bilingual status would be good for Galway by level of Irish proficiency
Base: All fluent Irish speakers (92)



Mórtas Áite

Thug freagróirí an tsuirbhé le fios go bhfuil nasc láidir idir a dtuairimí faoin teanga agus an tuiscint atá acu ar a bhféiniúlacht náisiúnta féin. Léiríodh an nasc seo i bhfreagraí mar 'is Éireannaigh muid agus tá sé tábhachtach an teanga a choinneáil beo'. Is minic a tugadh cúiseanna féiniúlachta nó cúiseanna a bhain le féiniúlacht mar mhíniúchán ar a gcuid freagraí. Tá sé spéisiúil gur thug freagróirí na cathrach níos mó cúiseanna a bhain le féiniúlacht (21% de na tuairimí uile) ná aon ghrúpa eile, agus ba iad muintir Chontae na Gaillimhe an dara grúpa ab airde (20%). Léiríonn sé seo comhghaol láidir idir úsáid na teanga ag an leibhéal áitiúil agus féiniúlacht na cathrach agus an réigiúin ar an iomlán.
Ceistíodh na freagróirí faoi na buntáistí a thabharfadh stádas oifigiúil dátheangach do Chathair na Gaillimhe. Ba iad na freagróirí leis an dearcadh is dearfaí, faoin gceist seo, na freagróirí sin a d'fhreagair i nGaeilge, idir fhreagróirí Gaeltachta agus Galltachta, agus léirigh 95% agus 85%, faoi seach, tuairimí dearfacha ina leith. Thug 77% de fhreagróirí na cathrach le fios go mbeadh stádas dátheangach buntáisteach do Ghaillimh, mheas 7% nach mbeadh sé buntáisteach agus bhí 16% gan tuairim ar bith. Níor léiríodh aon difríocht i ndáil leis an gceist seo, áfach, idir muintir na Gaillimhe agus a gcómhuintir sa chuid eile den tír. Ba chosúil an freagra ar thug daoine ó áiteanna eile i bPoblacht na hÉireann: dúirt 77% go mbeadh sé buntáisteach, 4% nach mbeadh agus 19% gan tuairim ar bith. Ba ghnách le cuairteoirí agus le freagróirí nach de bhunús na hÉireann iad bheith gan tuairim faoin gceist seo. Dúirt 32% de na hEorpaigh, 26% de mhuintir Thuaisceart Mheiriceá agus 25% de shaoránaigh an Ríochta Aontaithe nach raibh a fhios acu an mbeadh stádas dátheangach buntáisteach do Ghaillimh nó nach mbeadh. Is é an t-aon difríocht, dá bhrí sin, idir na freagróirí, maidir leis an gceist seo, go raibh na cainteoirí Gaeilge níos dearfaí agus níos cinnte. Ba iad na freagróirí eachtrannacha is mó a léirigh neamhchinnteacht faoin tionchar a bheadh ag stádas dátheangach ar Chathair na Gaillimhe.

Feictear an patrún céanna nuair a dhéantar comparáid idir na freagraí a bhfuarthas ar an gceist (meas tú an mbeadh sé go maith stádas oifigiúil dátheangach a bheith ag Gaillimh?) agus cumas labhartha Gaeilge na bhfreagróirí. D'aontaigh 84% de na cainteoirí dúchais/líofa go mbeadh sé go maith do Ghaillimh, dúirt 3% díobh nach mbeadh agus bhí 13% gan tuairim. Ní raibh na freagróirí nach bhfuil cumas labhartha Gaeilge acu chomh cinnte céanna faoi, áfach: thug 65% le fios go mbeadh sé go maith don chathair, 9% nach mbeadh agus 26% gan tuairim.

Ceistíodh freagróirí na cathrach, go háirithe, faoina mbeadh siad mórálach as stádas dátheangach don chathair. Thug iomlán (100%) freagróirí Ghaeltacht na Gaillimhe a d'fhreagair i nGaeilge le fios go mbeadh siad mórálach as. Ba iad muintir na cathrach a thug an chéad fhreagra eile ba dhearfaí, agus dúirt 83% díobh go mbeadh siad mórálach as, 7% nach mbeadh agus 10% gan tuairim ar bith. Cuireadh an tuairim chéanna in iúl go láidir le linn chruinnithe na ngrúpaí fócais agus sna hagallaimh phearsanta. Ní raibh aon amhras ar na freagróirí ach go mbeadh an stádas dátheangach buntáisteach do chathair agus do réigiún na Gaillimhe, agus thug a lán daoine le fios gurb é an tionscal áitiúil turasóireachta is mó a bhainfeadh leas as. Labhair an grúpa fócais a dhírigh ar an turasóireacht faoin sainmhíniú ar leith a thabharfadh stádas dátheangach do Chathair na Gaillimhe, rud a chruthódh saintáirge don earnáil tuarasóireachta a d'fhéadfaí a dhíol agus a chur chun cinn go héasca trí phacáiste iomlán sainiúil a thairiscint don chuairteoir.

Local Pride

Respondents expressed a strong connection between their feelings on the language and their own personal sense of national identity, with comments such as 'we are Irish and it is important to keep Irish alive'. Survey respondents often gave 'identity' and identity-related reasons to explain their answers. Interestingly, Galway city respondents made more identity-related comments (21% of their total comments) than any other group, with Galway county people the second highest (20%). This illustrates a high correlation between the use of the language at a local level and the identity of the city and region as a whole.
Survey respondents were asked if it would be good for Galway should the city possess official bilingual status. The most positive respondents in this case were those who answered in Irish, both Gaeltacht and non-Gaeltacht respondents, with 95% and 85% answering positively, respectively. 77% of Galway city respondents said it would be good for Galway if the city had bilingual status, 7% thought it would not and 16% said that they did not know. However Galwegians did not differ on this question from their fellow citizens in the rest of the country. Respondents from the rest of the Republic of Ireland answered similarly: 77% saying yes, 4% no and 19% saying they did not know. Visitors and respondents who said they were from outside Ireland were much more likely to say that they did not know: 32% of Europeans, 26% of North Americans and 25% of UK respondents said they did not know if bilingual status would be good for Galway. Therefore the only main difference between respondents on this question of whether it would be good for Galway is that Irish speakers were most positive and less unsure. Foreign respondents were most unsure of how bilingual status would affect Galway city.

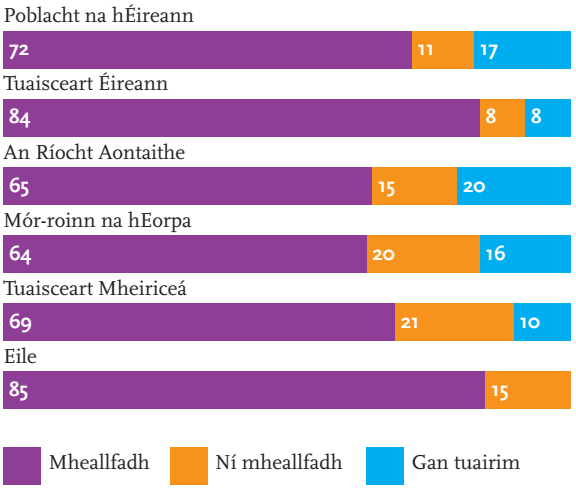
This pattern is also clear when we look at how respondents answered this question (would it be good for Galway should the city possess bilingual status?) when analysed against the amount of Irish respondents can speak. 84% of fluent/native Irish speakers said that it would be good for Galway, 3% said it would not and 13% said they did not know. However, the non-Irish speakers were less sure whether it would be good for Galway: 65% of non-Irish speakers said it would be good, 9% said it would not and 26% did not know.

Galway respondents were asked in particular if they would be proud of a bilingual status for their city. All (100%) Galway Gaeltacht respondents that answered in Irish said they would be proud. Galway city people responded with the next most positive answer, with 83% saying they would, 7% saying they would not and 10% saying they did not know. The same sentiment was expressed very strongly in focus group deliberations and personal in-depth interviews. Respondents had little doubt that bilingual status would benefit Galway city and the region greatly, with many attributing the benefits to the local tourism industry. The tourism focus group spoke of how a bilingual status would define Galway city, giving the tourism trade an exclusive product which could easily be marketed by the industry, thereby offering the 'total experience' for the visitor.

Chonaic an grúpa seo ceangal láidir freisin idir 'branda an dátheangachais' agus an bonneagar cultúrtha atá sa chathair faoi láthair, ó fhéilte bliantúla go siamsaíocht rialta sna tithe tábhairne.

Ceistíodh na cuairteoirí a ghlac páirt sa suirbhé faoina meallfadh an dátheangachas cuairteoirí chuig an gcathair. Thug 72% de na cuairteoirí le fios go meallfadh, dúirt 11% nach meallfadh agus 17% gan tuairim. Ba iad na grúpaí leis an líon is mó freagraí dearfacha, i gcás na ceiste seo, na cuairteoirí sin ó Thuaisceart Éireann (84%), ó Phoblacht na hÉireann (72% - a léiríonn tarraingt láidir ón margadh turasóireachta baile) agus ó Mheiriceá Thuaidh (69%). É sin ráite, níorbh é an grúpa turasóireachta amháin a d'aithin na buntáistí a bheadh ag an stádas don tionscal turasóireachta. Chonaic na comhlachtaí gairmiúla, grúpaí ealaíne, gnólachtaí beaga agus grúpaí fáilteachais an buntáiste céanna don chathair. Bhí claonadh ann i measc na ngrúpaí sin a dhírigh ar an ngnó na buntáistí a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag an stádas dátheangach a lua le turasóirí nó le tríú páirtí eile. Cé go raibh fios ag an bpobal gnó go bhféadfadh siad leas airgid a bhaint as an dátheangachas, ba ghnách leo an leas airgid sin a lua le breis ghnó a thiocfadh ón turasóireacht seachas le cainteoirí Gaeilge a dhéanfadh gnó leo i ngeall ar a gcumas dátheangach. B'eol do chuid mhaith den lucht gnó go bhféadfaidís leas a bhaint as, ach ní raibh siad cinnte conas a ndéanfaidís amhlaidh ná cén tionchar a bheadh aige ar a gcorrlach brabúis.

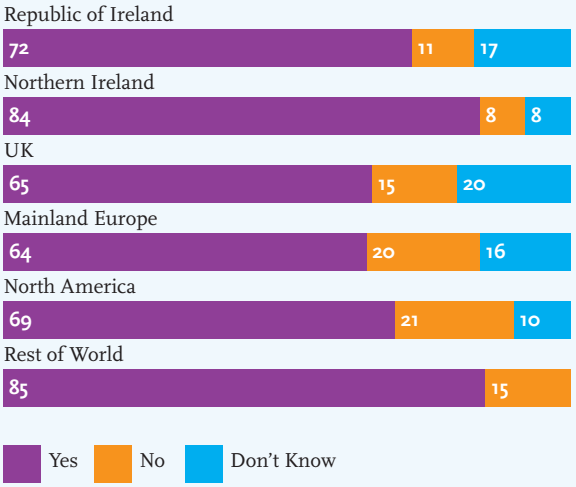
An dearcadh faoina meallfadh an dátheangachas cuairteoirí chuig an gcathair de réir a dtíortha dúchais
Foinse: Na cuairteoirí uile (175)



This group also made strong connections between this 'brand of bilingualism' and the existing cultural infrastructure in the city, from annual festivals to year-round Irish entertainment, such as traditional music in public houses.

Visitors to the city were asked in the survey if bilingualism would be an attraction in visiting the city. 72% of visitors said that it would be an attraction, 11% said that it would not and 17% did not know. Groups with the highest number of positive answers for this question included those from Northern Ireland (84%), the Republic of Ireland (72% - indicating a strong attraction for the domestic tourism market) and North America (69%). However, the tourism group were not the only group to recognise the potential benefits for the tourism industry. The professional bodies, arts groups, small businesses and hospitality groups also stated this as a benefit for the city. Business-centred groups were more likely to attribute the benefits of possible bilingual status to tourists or another third party. Generally the business community were aware that they could benefit financially from bilingualism, but were more likely to attribute the benefit to extra business brought in by tourism rather than from Irish speakers doing business with them because of their bilingual capability. Many business people were aware that they would benefit, but did not completely understand how this benefit would reach them directly or to what extent it would effect their profit margin.

Whether bilingualism would be an attraction to the city for tourists by native place
Base: All visitors (175)



Dátheangach nó Ilteangach

Bhí an-ghlacadh ag freagróirí neamhnáisiúnta leis an nGaeilge agus bhí roinnt acu nár chuala fúithi riamh. Chuir siad suim agus spéis sa teanga agus bhí dúil ag a lán acu eolas a fháil ar chúrsaí chun í a fhoghlaim. Chuir roinnt freagróirí neamhnáisiúnta in iúl go bhfuil comhbhá acu le cainteoirí Gaeilge mar gur baill de chultúr mionlaigh iad nó go labhraíonn siad mionteanga. Ba léir go bhfuil leibhéal ard tuisceana ar an ilchultúrachas i sochaí na hÉireann sa lá atá inniu ann, agus chuir na freagróirí in iúl go bhfuil géarghá le gach cultúr i gCathair na Gaillimhe a lánpháirtiú sa tsochaí. Rinneadh tagairt don lánpháirtiú seo i gcomhthéacs cultúrtha seachas i gcomhthéacs teanga. B'fhéidir gur comhartha é seo ar chomhdhearcadh teanga i gcomhthéacs cultúrtha níos leithne, seachas i gcomhthéacs cumarsáideach. D'fhéadfadh sé go bhfuil Cathair na Gaillimhe ina haonar, maidir leis an gceist seo, i ngeall ar an gceangal a chonacthas níos luaithe idir stádas na Gaeilge sa chathair agus cáil chultúrtha na cathrach. Níor glacadh leis sa suirbhé go bhfágfadh branda dátheangach grúpaí áirithe ar leataobh (m.sh. daoine gan Ghaeilge), ach bhíothas den tuairim, i gcoitinne, go mbeadh ar thionscnóirí an bhranda sin 'gach duine a thabhairt leo agus a lánpháirtiú sa smaoineamh'.

Nuair a rinneadh mionphlé ar an ilchultúrachas agus ar an ilteangachas, i gcruinnithe na ngrúpaí fócais agus sna hagallaimh phearsanta, tháinig trí chur chuige dhifriúla chun cinn i leith an 'dátheangachais chuimsithigh'. Ar an gcéad dul síos, bhí an smaoineamh maidir leis an dátheangachas a chur chun cinn sa chathair, agus cuireadh a thabhairt do ghrúpaí teangacha agus cultúrtha eile páirt a ghlacadh i saol dátheangach na cathrach. Sa tslí sin, chiallódh an dátheangachas cothromaíocht i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge agus an Bhéarla le hais a chéile, ach go mbeadh seans ag gach uile dhuine bheith rannpháirteach, beag beann ar a gcultúr, eitneachas, cumas teanga ná cúlra. Ba iad na grúpaí ó na hearnálacha fáilteachais agus corparáideacha a chuir an bhéim is láidre ar an gcur chuige seo mar go bhfuil na hearnálacha sin comhdhéanta as meascán náisiúntachtaí. Chuir na grúpaí sin an-spéis in dhátheangachas Gaeilge/Béarla a chuimseodh gach náisiúntacht, mar gur chuir na rannpháirtithe sin nach de bhunús na hÉireann iad suim sa Ghaeilge agus sa ghné seo de chultúr na hÉireann. Chuir na rannpháirtithe in iúl go bhféadfadh dearcthimpeallacht Chathair na Gaillimhe a bheith i bhfad níos dátheangaí agus go bhféadfaí a éifeacht ar chur chun cinn na teanga a mhéadú dá mbeadh an dátheangachas le tabhairt faoi deara i ngach uile réimse de shaol na cathrach, agus go mbeadh gach saghas gnó ag úsáid beartas comharthaíochta dátheangaí.[3] Bhí na daoine a mhol an cur chuige seo ag iarraidh an dátheangachas a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm céim ar chéim sa chathair.

Is é an dara cur chuige a mhol na freagróirí Gaillimh a chur chun cinn mar chathair ilteangach – cathair a mbeadh cáil uirthi as an glacadh a bheadh aici le húsáid, le cearta agus le foghlaim teangacha. Labhair na freagróirí faoi chur chuige iomlán cuimsitheach, ach nuair a rinneadh plé níos doimhne ar phraiticiúlacht an ilteangachais, thug go leor den ghrúpa faoi deara go mbeadh sé fíordheacair an dearcadh sin a chur i bhfeidhm agus go mbeadh gá le nuashonrú leanúnach a dhéanamh ar an gcur chuige de réir mar a d'athródh na teangacha sa chathair bliain i ndiaidh bliana.

Sna hagallaimh phearsanta, den chuid is mó, a nochtaíodh an tríú cur chuige, agus i ngeall ar imní faoi neamhnáisiúnaigh a chónaíonn i gCathair na Gaillimhe agus an tionchar a bheadh ag beartais chuimsitheachta orthu.

Bilingual or Multilingual

Non-national respondents were very receptive to the idea of the Irish language and some were unaware of its existence. They expressed interest in and enthusiasm for the language and many were keen to find out where and how they could learn it. Some non-national respondents expressed empathy with Irish speakers because they themselves had come from a minority culture or spoke a minority language.
There was also a high level of awareness of multi-culturalism in modern Irish society and a strong need was communicated by respondents to be inclusive of all cultures in Galway city. However inclusion was discussed in a cultural rather than a linguistic context which could be indicative of a common perspective of language in a wider cultural context, rather than in a communicative context. This also may be unique to Galway city, due to the associations discussed earlier between the status of the Irish language there and the city's cultural reputation. Respondents did not assume that a bilingual brand would automatically exclude some groups (such as non-Irish speakers), but generally agreed that the promoters of such a brand needed to 'bring everybody along with the concept'.

As the ideas of multiculturalism and multilingualism were discussed in greater detail in focus group deliberations and personal in-depth interviews, three separate approaches to 'inclusive bilingualism' became evident. The first is to promote bilingualism in the city, while inviting other linguistic and cultural groups to become involved in Galway city's bilingual life.

Thus bilingualism would mean an equal promotion of the use of Irish and English side by side, but that all were invited to participate, regardless of their culture, ethnicity, language ability, or background. This approach was most strongly promoted in groups from the hospitality and corporate sectors that were made up of a mixture of nationalities. These respondents were most enthusiastic about Irish and English bilingualism that would include all nationalities, as non-nationals in these groups expressed interest in the Irish language and this aspect of Irish culture. Interestingly, only Irish respondents called for foreign languages to be included, while non-nationals did not feel that they were in a position to demand the widespread use of their language, unless a matter of life or death.[3] Respondents who suggested this approach were interested in a gradual implementation, a 'phased' development of bilingualism in the city.

The second approach put forward by respondents is to promote Galway as a multilingual city – a city known for its receptiveness to language use, rights and learning. Respondents spoke of an all-inclusive approach, but when further discussion was encouraged on the practicalities of multi-lingualism, many in the group conceded that it would be extremely difficult to implement and would cause difficulties as it would involve constant updating, as the languages in the city change over the years.

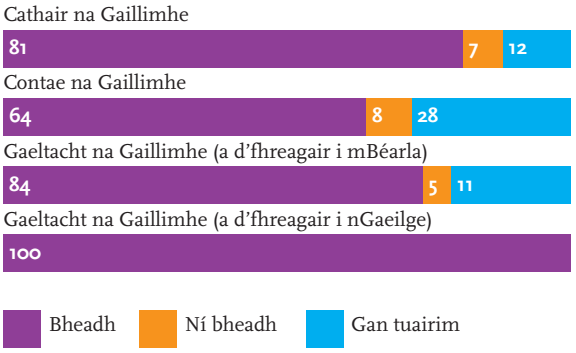
The third suggestion came primarily from personal in-depth interviews and out of concern again for inclusive policies for non-nationals living in Galway city.

Eascraíonn sé ón smaoineamh nach gcuimsíonn cathair dhátheangach daoine a chónaíonn ann nach bhfuil Gaeilge acu nó nach bhfuil ach Béarla amháin acu, agus go mbeadh 'Príomhchathair na Gaeilge' i bhfad níos feiliúnaí agus níos cuimsithí mar chur chuige. Cuireadh in iúl nach bhfuil an chathair ullamh fós do gach aon ghné den dátheangachas (nach bhféadfadh an Ghaeilge an leibhéal céanna seirbhíse a sholáthar agus an Béarla mar gur mionteanga í srl.) agus gur cur chuige níos "ionraice" é 'Príomhchathair na Gaeilge'. D'fhéadfadh sé go gcreideann na daoine atá i bhfabhar an mhodha seo go mbeadh gá le gach réimse den dátheangachas a chur i bhfeidhm láithreach agus ina n-iomláine, ach mar a tugadh le fios níos luaithe sa tuarascáil, ní hamhlaidh atá. I bhfianaise na bhfachtóirí sin a mheastar go bhfuil tábhacht ag baint leo do chathair dhátheangach is léir go bhfuil gnéithe áirithe níos tábhachtaí ná gnéithe eile. Is éard a chruthódh sé seo cur chuige céimseach a rachadh i ngleic le hionracas na timpeallachta dátheangaí sa chathair.

"Chuir roinnt freagróirí neamhnáisiúnta in iúl go bhfuil comhbhá acu le cainteoirí Gaeilge mar gur baill de chultúr mionlaigh iad nó go labhraíonn siad mionteanga."

3 Luaigh Éireannaigh agus eachtrannaigh teangacha Oirthear na hEorpa (m.sh. an Pholannais agus an Liotuáinis) a bhíonn in úsáid ar fhógraí rabhaidh ar láithreacha tógála mar riachtanas don ilteangachas, ach, bhí a bhformhór den tuairim, nach bhfuil gá an t-ilteangachas a scaipeadh níos faide.

An dearcadh faoina mbeadh muintir na Gaillimhe mórálach as stádas dátheangach
Foinse: Freagróirí uile na Gaillimhe (201)

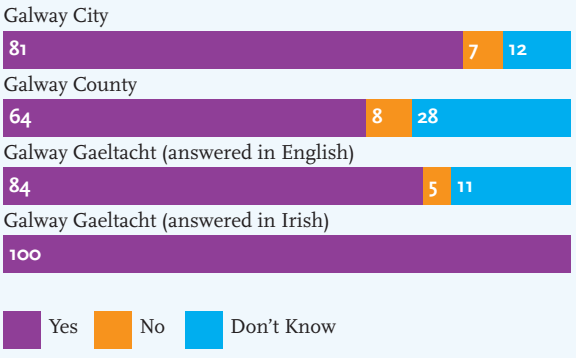


The idea is that a bilingual city excludes non-Irish and English speaking residents, but that a 'príomhchathair na Gaeilge' (Capital Irish language city) is a more appropriate and inclusive approach.
Respondents expressed the concern that the city was not ready for complete bilingualism (as a minority language, that Irish could not provide the same level of service as English etc.) and that the 'Capital of Irish' was a more "honest" approach. Promoters of this approach may be assuming that all facets of bilingualism would be expected to be implemented immediately and in full, but as we have seen, this is not the case. In light of the factors that are important to respondents for a bilingual city it is apparent that some are more important than others, giving a phased approach which addresses the 'honesty' of the linguistic environment of the city.

"Some non-national respondents expressed empathy with Irish speakers because they themselves had come from a minority culture or spoke a minority language."

3 'Both Irish and non-Irish respondents gave the example of Eastern European languages (such as Polish and Lithuanian) being used on safety notices of building sites being a necessary use of multilingualism, but most did not think that multilingualism needed to extend beyond this type of use.....

Whether Galway respondents would be proud if Galway had bilingual status
Base: All Galway respondents (201)



Teagmháil leis an Teanga

Chuir rannpháirtithe na ngrúpaí fócais béim an-láidir ar na bhfachtóir go mbeadh teacht éasca ar an nGaeilge. Bhí a lán daoine den tuairim nach raibh sé soiléir conas teacht ar ranganna agus ar chúrsaí poiblí Gaeilge. Luaigh freagróirí go spreagfadh an stádas dátheangach iad an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim nó a athfhoghlaim ach go mbeadh sé tábhachtach teagmháil níos éasca a dhéanamh le cúrsaí foirmiúla.
Mhol a lán rannpháirtithe go mbeadh caifí agus spásanna poiblí dátheangacha ina áis thábhachtach agus cuireadh an-spéis sa smaoineamh seo. Is é neamhfhoirmiúlacht na smaointe sin a mheall na freagróirí agus is é an cur síos a rinneadh orthu 'comhluadar réchúiseach, neamhfhoirmiúil agus spraoiúil'. Rinneadh plé, ag an bpointe seo, ar mhórphearsana cultúrtha Gaeilge áitiúla agus náisiúnta, mar Hector Ó hEochagáin. Cuireadh an-suim sa smaoineamh rud 'spraoiúil' ábhartha a dhéanamh den Ghaeilge i gcomhthéacs an lae inniu. Caithfidh lucht tionscanta na teanga aghaidh a thabhairt ar na daoine sin nach raibh teacht ar bith acu ar an teanga go dtí seo agus iad a chur i dteagmháil léi. Mhol líon mór rannpháirtithe na hiarrachtaí chun an teanga a chur i láthair an phobail i slí nuálaíoch agus réchúiseach.

Thug roinnt rannpháirtithe ó na grúpaí fócais agus ó na hagallaimh le fios, fiú amháin, nach nglacfadh siad páirt sa phróiseas dátheangach i gCathair na Gaillimhe mura gcuirfí i láthair é ar shlí spraoiúil. Tá an tóir ar neamhfhoirmiúlacht maidir le teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an teanga ag teacht leis an dímheas a léirigh freagróirí áirithe ar na bearta éigeantacha a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge, mar a fheicfimid sa chéad alt eile. Ba chóir a lua, freisin, go raibh sé tábhachtach do gach aon ghrúpa ó na hearnálacha uile, freagróirí Éireannacha agus eachtrannacha araon, go mbeadh fáil éasca acu ar an teanga agus go raibh gach grúpa fabhrach i leith an smaoinimh 'Caife Gaelach' a bhunú.
Nuair a labhair na freagróirí faoi theagmháil a dhéanamh leis an nGaeilge, rinneadh tagairt do chur chun cinn agus d'úsáid na teanga ar shlí leithleach - .i. luadh 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' mar sháriarracht ar feadh tréimshe seachtaine le linn na bliana ach go ndéantar dearmad uirthi ag deireadh na seachtaine sin. Bhí a lán freagróirí den tuairim go raibh tábhacht ag baint le húsáid agus le cur chun cinn na teanga i ngnáthshaol na cathrach, m.sh. meáin dhátheangacha i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla (smaoineamh a thagann le torthaí an tsuirbhé, a luadh thuas, inar tugadh le fios gur gné an-tábhachtach do chathair dhátheangach 'meáin a bheith ar fáil in dhá theanga'). Luadh tuairimí eile maidir leis an gcur chuige seo, ach bhain a bhformhór leis an gcomhthéacs cultúrtha agus rinneadh tagairt d'féilte agus do cheol traidisiúnta mar shamplaí a d'fhéadfaí a úsáid.

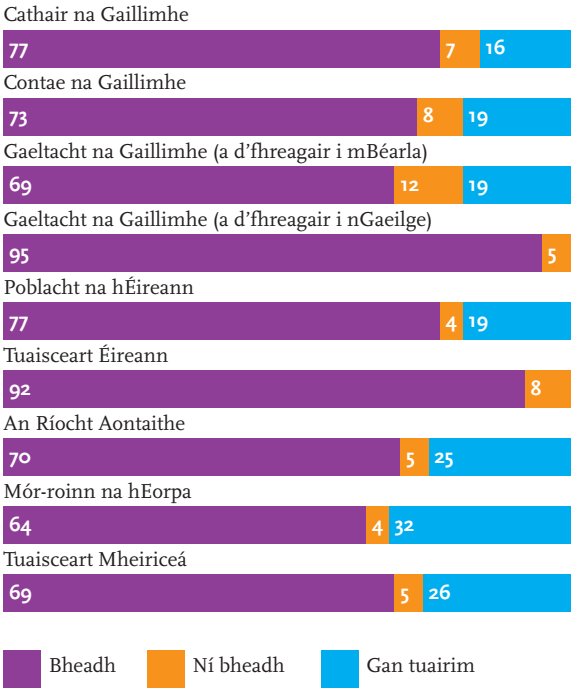
Access

Access to the Irish language was an extremely important factor for focus group respondents. Many felt that access to Irish classes and courses was not clear in the public domain. Respondents commented that bilingual status would give them an incentive to re-learn or learn the Irish language but that formal courses needed to be made more accessible.
Many participants suggested the idea of Irish language cafés and public spaces, which was greeted with huge interest and enthusiasm by all other respondents. The informality of these ideas was very attractive to respondents and was eagerly described as 'casual, informal and fun environments'. Local and national Irish-speaking cultural icons, such as Hector Ó hEochagáin, were discussed in this context – the approach of making the language 'fun' and relevant in a modern context was very appealing to respondents. Their approach in bringing the language to those who may have otherwise had no access to it cannot be underestimated by language promoters and the presentation of the language in a modern and light atmosphere was complimented and mentioned by a very large number of research participants.

In fact, some focus group and interview participants went so far as to say that they would only become involved in bilingualism in Galway city if it was presented in a 'fun' manner. The attraction of informality in terms of access is consistent with a sense of disdain expressed by some respondents for compulsory measures with regard to the Irish language, as we will see in the next section. It should also be noted that ease of access was an important issue for groups from all sectors and for both Irish and non-national respondents and that all groups responded positively to the 'Gaelic Café' idea.
When respondents spoke about access to the Irish language, they also spoke about the promotion and use of the language in isolation – i.e. 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' was used as an example of great efforts being made in one week of the year and 'dropped' once that week ended. Many respondents felt that the use and promotion of the language had a place in more regular aspects of city life, such as the integration of Irish in English language media (an idea consistent with survey results mentioned above citing 'media available in two languages' as a very important factor for a bilingual city). Other ideas relating to how this may be done were generally in the cultural context, with festivals and Irish traditional music deemed a good 'fit'.

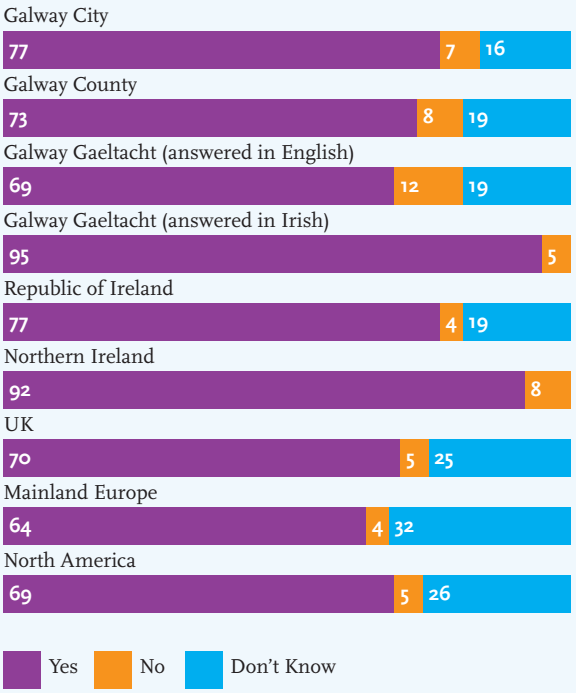
Luaigh freagróirí go spreagfadh an stádas dátheangach iad an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim nó a athfhoghlaim ach go mbeadh sé tábhachtach teagmháil níos éasca a dhéanamh le cúrsaí foirmiúla.

An dearcadh faoina mbeadh stádas dátheangach buntáisteach do Ghaillimh de réir áit dúchais na bhfreagróirí
Foinse: Na freagróirí uile (492)



Participants expressed the view that bilingual status would give them an incentive to re-learn the Irish Language but that formal courses needed to be made more accessible

Whether bilingual status would be good for Galway by respondents native place
Base: All respondents (492)



Constaicí

Bhain roinnt de na constaicí a luaigh freagróirí an tsuirbhé, maidir leis an dátheangachas, leis an nGaeilge féin seachas leis an dá theanga a bheith in úsáid le chéile i saol na cathrach. Bhí formhór na bhfreagróirí den tuairim go ndearna drochtheagasc na teanga dochar don teanga féin agus do cháil na teanga, agus ba théama deacair agus diúltach a bhí ann do roinnt de na freagróirí (ba chóir a lua, áfach, gur labhair roinnt de na freagróirí ar an drochthaithí a bhí ag daoine eile ar theagasc na teanga, seachas ar a dtaithí féin, a bhí dearfach go leor). Chonaic na freagróirí ceangal láithreach idir an teanga agus modhanna teagaisc neamhéifeachtacha agus béim dhaingean ar ghramadach agus ar chruinneas gramadaí. Nuair a fágadh an réimse teagaisc agus a dtaithí pearsanta féin ar an teagasc ar leataobh, áfach, tugadh dearcadh níos dearfaí le fios i leith na teanga i gcomhthéacs an lae inniu.

Rinne na daoine sin a bhfuil baint acu le gnó tagairt do chonstaicí eile – ba ghnách le bainisteoirí gnólachtaí beaga agus dúchasacha atá lonnaithe i nGaillimh tagairt a dhéanamh don tslí ina gcuirfí an dátheangachas i bhfeidhm i gCathair na Gaillimhe. Labhraíodh ar chúraimí airgid a bhainfeadh le seirbhísí aistriúcháin agus le priontáil breis chomharthaí agus páipéarachais. Ghlac an lucht gnó leis, go mbeadh dualgas orthu, gach ábhar a phriontáil faoi dhó seachas an dátheangachas a chuimsiú de réir a chéile ar an stáiseanóireacht atá acu cheana.

Nuair a úsáideadh focail mar 'oifigiúil' agus 'beartas' chun cur síos a dhéanamh ar an stádas dátheangach, bhí imní ar roinnt daoine nach mbeadh aon fháilte roimh bheartas ná roimh thionscnamh stáit ná údaráis chun stádas oifigiúil dátheangach a bhronnadh ar Ghaillimh. Úsáideadh focail mar 'éigeantach' agus 'brú i dtreo na foirfeachta' chun dímheas agus míshástacht a léiriú faoi thionscnaimh a bhí á stiúradh ag an stát. Mar a phléamar ag tús an ailt seo, áfach, dhírigh na díospóireachtaí sin ar thuairimí na bhfreagróirí i leith na teanga i gcomhthéacs oideachais agus ní i gcur chun cinn na teanga.

Bhí na freagróirí céanna den tuairim, áfach, go raibh gá le beartas éigeantach i réimsí áirithe den earnáil phoiblí áitiúil – m.sh. bhí gach duine den tuairim, i gcoitinne, 'nach mór' comharthaí sna hearnálacha poiblí agus príobháideacha a bheith dátheangach. Léiríodh níos mó spéise agus suime sa dátheangachas i gcás beartais a bheadh 'á spreagadh' ag leibhéal an phobail áitiúil.

Obstacles

Some of the barriers that respondents communicated in relation to bilingualism were actually pertaining to the Irish language itself rather than the coexistence of both languages in the city environment. The teaching of the language was regarded by the majority of respondents as an area of difficulty for the language and its reputation and it provided a difficult and negative context for some respondents themselves (although it should be noted that some respondents spoke of other peoples bad teaching experiences, rather than their own, which were quite positive). Respondents associated the language immediately with ineffective teaching methods and a strict emphasis on grammar and grammatical correctness. However, when respondents were guided beyond the area of Irish language teaching and their personal experiences of this they had a much more positive attitude towards the language in a modern and present context.

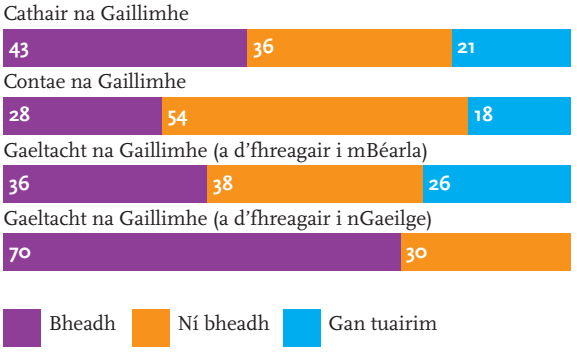
Other obstacles were raised by respondents involved in business – typically, managers in small or indigenous businesses based in Galway generally related to the practicalities of implementing bilingualism in Galway city. Costs concerns were raised in relation to translation services and printing of additional signage and material. Business people assumed that bilingualism would oblige them to print all of their material twice and had a perception of doubling material rather than incorporating bilingualism into existing material.

When words such as 'official' and 'policy' were used to describe bilingual status, some respondents expressed concern that a state or authority-led policy or initiative to give official status to Galway as a bilingual city may not be welcome. Words such as 'compulsory' and 'aggression towards perfection' were used by respondents with a tone of disdain and disapproval of state-led language initiatives. However, as discussed at the beginning of this section, these conversations centred on respondents views of the language in an educational context and not in a promotional one.

However, the same respondents did feel that a compulsory policy in some areas of local public sector was appropriate – for example, respondents generally agreed that signage in both the public and private sectors 'must' be bilingual. Respondents spoke with more enthusiasm and interest in bilingualism in the context of the policy being one which was 'encouraged' at a community and general participatory level.

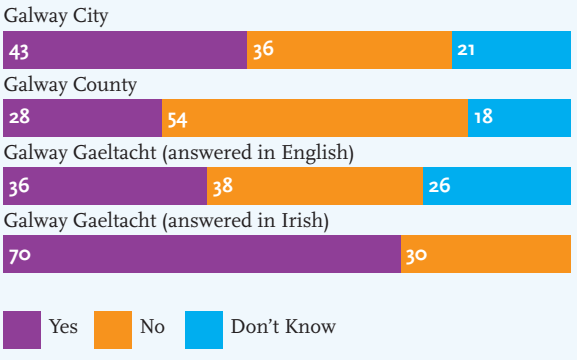
Léiríonn cás Bolzano/Bozen meon iomlán difriúil: déantar gach ábhar, comhartha srl. a cheapadh ón tús leis an dátheangachas san áireamh. Ní dhearna an pobal gnó ná an t-údarás cathrach i mBolzano/Bozen aon trácht riamh ar chúraimí airgid, mar go raibh glactha leis an dátheangachas agus le comhionannas teangacha mar ghnáthpháirt den timpeallacht. Bhí sé intuigthe don lucht gnó dá roghnóidís gan teanga amháin a chur san áireamh nach meallfadh siad gnó ón ngrúpa teanga sin.

An dearcadh faoina mbeadh tionchar ag an dátheangachas ar an saol laethúil de réir áit dúchais na bhfreagróirí
Foinse: Freagróirí uile na Gaillimhe (201)



The case of Bolzano/Bozen illustrated a completely different mentality: material, signage etc. was designed from the outset with bilingualism in mind. Cost concerns were also never raised by either the business community or the city authority in Bolzano/Bozen, because bilingualism and linguistic equality was an accepted reality in the environment. There was a clear acceptance by businesses that if they were not bilingual and chose to exclude one community language, they would not attract the business of the linguistic group they were excluding.

Whether bilingualism would influence daily life by native place
Base: All Galway respondents (201)



Róil Phearsanta & Ghairmiúla

Nuair a ceistíodh freagróirí an tsuirbhé faoin tionchar a bheadh ag stádas dátheangach do Ghaillimh ar a saol ó lá go lá, ba iad freagróirí Ghaeltacht na Gaillimhe a d'fhreagair an suirbhé i nGaeilge an grúpa ba dhéarfaí gan amhras. D'aontaigh 70% den ghrúpa sin go mbeadh tionchar aige orthu agus 30% nach mbeadh. Ba iad freagróirí na cathrach an dara grúpa ba dhearfaí faoin gceist seo, agus d'aontaigh 43% go mbeadh, 36% nach mbeadh agus d'fhan cionmhaireacht mheasartha ard gan tuairim ar bith (21%). Ba iad muintir na Gaeltachta a d'fhreagair i nGaeilge an grúpa leis an leibhéal cinnteachta ab airde faoin gceist seo – ní raibh aon duine den ghrúpa sin gan tuairim faoina mbeadh tionchar ag stádas dátheangach ar a saol laethúil. Ba é an grúpa leis an leibhéal cinnteachta ab ísle, .i. an líon is airde daoine gan tuairim, na freagróirí sin ón nGaeltacht a d'fhreagair i mBéarla. Dar ndóigh, ba ghnách le heachtrannaigh (ón Ríocht Aontaithe agus ón Eoraip den chuid is mó) freagra diúltach a thabhairt ar an gceist seo.

Nocht an lucht gnó agus lucht údarás áitiúil a ghlac páirt sna grúpaí fócais agus sna hagallaimh tuairimí éagsúla faoin tslí ina mbeadh ról acu i bpróiseas an dátheangachais i nGaillimh. Bhí a lán smaointe agus tuairimí ag feidhmeannaigh na n-údarás áitiúil faoin tslí inar chóir an dátheangachas a chur i bhfeidhm, ach cuireadh béim ar chur chuige ilfheidhmiúil, agus nár chóir d'aon eagraíocht amháin bheith i gceannas ar fhíorú na bhfachtóirí uile.

Bhí ceannairí agus bainisteoirí gnó níos cinnte faoina gcuid smaointe maidir leis an ról a bheadh acu chun an dátheangachas a chur i bhfeidhm i gCathair na Gaillimhe. Dúirt bainisteoirí miondíola áirithe ó shreangshiopaí móra náisiúnta (tháinig duine amháin as siopa ina bhfuil laghdú tagtha ar úsáid na Gaeilge le blianta beaga anuas i ngeall ar bhrandáil lárnach) cé gurbh fhearr leis an gcomhlacht go gcoinneodh gach siopa gnáthbhranda an chomhlachta, nach gcuirfí i gcoinne 'beartais dhátheangaigh' don chathair. Dhearbhaigh bainisteoir miondíola eile go raibh a chomhlacht ag iarraidh bheith páirteach sa chathair agus, dá mba rud é go raibh an dátheangachas ina dhlúthchuid de bheartas na cathrach, nach mbeadh aon fhadhb acu tacú leis. Is léir gur trí 'bheartas oifigiúil cathrach' amháin a mbeadh cuideachtaí móra corparáideacha toilteanach an dátheangachas a chur i bhfeidhm ar mhórscála i gcomparáid leis na hiarrachtaí atá ar siúl acu faoi láthair. Chuir na bainisteoirí an-spéis sa smaoineamh, agus bhí siad den tuairim go mbeadh buntáiste le baint ag an gcathair as, ach go mbeadh orthu na costais a fhíorú dá gceanncheathrúna corparáideacha.

Luadh Gaillimh le Gaeilge, go mór mór i measc ceannairí na n-údarás áitiúil agus na gceannairí gnó, mar cheannródaí agus mar éascaitheoir sa phróiseas, in éineacht le gnólachtaí agus le heagraíochtaí eile Gaeilge. Ní raibh freagróirí an tsuirbhé sráide chomh heolach céanna ar Ghaillimh le Gaeilge, agus thug 26% le fios gurbh eol dóibh an eagraíocht agus 74% nárbh eol. Ní raibh mórán difríochta sna staitisticí i measc mhuintir na cathrach, agus thug 23% le fios gurbh eol dóibh Gaillimh le Gaeilge agus 77% nárbh eol. Bhí an leibhéal feasachta is airde faoin eagraíocht

Personal & Professional Roles

When respondents were asked if they thought bilingual status for Galway city would influence their daily lives, Galway Gaeltacht respondents that answered the survey in Irish were understandably the most positive, with 70% saying it would and 30% that it would not. The group with the second highest positive response on this question were Galway city respondents, with 43% saying it would, 36% saying it would not and a relatively high proportion at 21% saying they did not know. Gaeltacht respondents answering in Irish were the most sure group in answering this question – none of them said that they did not know if bilingual status would influence their daily lives. The most unsure group, i.e. the one with the highest number of 'don't know's', were Gaeltacht respondents who answered in English. Understandably, foreign respondents (generally from the UK and Europe) were also very likely to say it would not influence their daily lives.

The business and local authority respondents in focus groups and interviews gave varied answers to this question of how they would be involved in Galway's bilingualism. Local authority officials had numerous ideas and opinions on how bilingualism should be put in place, but stressed a multi-functional approach to its implementation, emphasising that no one organisation should hold sole responsibility for the realisation of all six factors.

Business leaders and managers were more specific in their ideas of what their own role may be in implementing bilingualism in Galway city. Several retail managers of large, national chain stores (one was from a store whose use of Irish has decreased in recent years due to central branding) said that although the company wished to keep all stores in line with central corporate branding, they would not go against a 'bilingual policy' in the city. Another retail manager attested to this fact, saying that the company wished to be a part of the city and that if bilingualism was a part of the city as policy they would have no problem supporting that policy. It is clear that from a corporate point of view, 'an official city policy' is the only way in which large corporates would agree to implement bilingualism on a greater and more visible scale than the current efforts. Managers were enthusiastic about the idea, saying that they thought it would be good for the city, but that they would have to justify costs to their corporate head offices.

Gaillimh le Gaeilge was mentioned by respondents, particularly the local authority and business leaders, as a driving force and facilitator in the process, along with other businesses and Irish language organisations. Street survey respondents generally showed a low awareness of Gaillimh le Gaeilge as an organisation, with 26% of all respondents saying they were aware and 74% saying they were not. Galway city respondents were not much different, with 23% being aware of Gaillimh le Gaeilge, and 77% not. The highest level of awareness for the organisation from the survey came from Gaeltacht respondents who answered in Irish, with 50% aware of the organisation.

sa suirbhé i measc mhuintir na Gaeltachta a d'fhreagair i nGaeilge. Thug 50% díobh le fios gurbh eol dóibh an eagraíocht. Léiríodh le linn chruinnithe na ngrúpaí fócais go bhfuil úinéirí agus bainisteoirí gnólachtaí i gCathair na Gaillimhe níos eolaí ar Ghaillimh le Gaeilge, rud a léiríonn an beartas ón mbarr síos atá in úsáid ag Gaillimh le Gaeilge ó bunaíodh an eagraíocht beagnach 20 bliain ó shin. Thug go leor de na rannpháirtithe nach raibh aon eolas acu go dtí seo ar Ghaillimh le Gaeilge le fios go mbeadh suim acu páirt a ghlacadh in eagraíocht dá leithéid.

The focus group deliberations showed that there is a stronger awareness among business owners and managers in Galway city of Gaillimh le Gaeilge, which reflects the Gaillimh le Gaeilge top-down policy which has been in effect since its foundation nearly 20 years ago. Many participants who were not aware of Gaillimh le Gaeilge's existence showed great interest in becoming involved in such an organisation.

Struchtúir a Mholadh agus cur i bhFeidhm

Ag eascairt ón réimse leathan tuairimí a cuireadh in iúl le linn an staidéir seo ar an dátheangachas agus ar stádas dátheangach do Chathair na Gaillimhe, is féidir líon struchtúr féideartha a mholadh chun stádas dá leithéid a chur i bhfeidhm.
Chuir freagróirí an tsuirbhé an-bhéim go deo ar na slite ina bhféadfaí an dátheangachas a chur i bhfeidhm agus nochtadh réimse leathan tuairimí ina leith. Mar a phléamar níos túisce san alt 'Constaicí', mhúscail téarmaí mar 'oifigiúil' agus 'stádas' íomhánna de bheartais stáit a bhaineann leis an earnáil oideachais, ach d'aontaigh na freagróirí, den chuid is mó, gur chóir do Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe na gnéithe sin den dátheangachas a bhaineann le húdarás cathrach a sholáthar. I ngeall ar an mbéim a cuireadh ar an ngné 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach', moladh go mbeadh ról ag oifig pleanála Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe i bhforfheidhmiú beartais dhátheangaigh um chomharthaíocht sa chathair. Tá an-dul chun cinn déanta ag Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe a d'oibrigh i gcomhar le forbróirí tithíochta chun úsáid ainmneacha Gaeilge a chur chun cinn ar eastáit tithíochta (fuair an tionscadal seo ardmholadh ón a lán freagróirí) agus chun úsáid na Gaeilge a spreagadh i measc miondíoltóirí, go háirithe na gnólachtaí sin atá lonnaithe i bhfoirgnimh liostaithe. Chuir an earnáil ghnó an-fháilte roimh na moltaí seo agus thug miondíoltóirí áirithe le tuiscint nach n-athródh a gcuid comhlachtaí an córas comharthaíochta atá acu mura mbeadh an dátheangachas cuimsithe i mbeartas do mhórcheantar na cathrach.

Ba é an dara struchtúr a moladh le linn an taighde chun an dátheangachas a chur i bhfeidhm, agus le linn an phróisis athmhachnaimh a lean an staidéar sin, cur chuige a bheadh á chur ar aghaidh ag an bpobal. Mheas na freagróirí go bhfuil an ghné chuimsitheachta den dátheangachas an-tábhachtach. Bheadh scátheagraíochtaí agus grúpaí gnó agus pobail éagsúla feiliúnach chun cuidiú suntasach a thabhairt d'fhorfheidhmiú an dátheangachais sa chathair trína bpobail agus a mbaill a spreagadh. Seo a leanas roinnt de na grúpaí a luadh le linn an taighde: Cumann Tráchtála na Gaillimhe, Cónaidhm Óstáin na hÉireann (IHF), Cumann Fhíoncheannaithe na hÉireann (VFI), Fáilte Ireland - Réigiún an Iarthair, Cumann Gnó Chathair na Gaillimhe agus Enterprise Ireland. Tá na struchtúir chuí ag na grúpaí seo, agus ag grúpaí eile mar iad, chun rannpháirtíocht fhorleathan a chinntiú i measc phobail éagsúla na cathrach. D'fhéadfadh an pháirt a bhí ag Gaillimh le Gaeilge i bhFóram Pobail na Gaillimhe agus an comhoibriú idir an eagraíocht agus Cumann Tráchtála na Gaillimhe bheith buntáisteach don struchtúr seo. Ní mór a chinntiú, áfach, go mbeidh ról soiléir agus sainleibhéal rannpháirtíochta ag gach grúpa, de réir a gcumas, a gcomhthéacsanna, a n-acmhainní agus an tionchar atá acu ar an bpobal.

Ar an tríú struchtúr, chonacthas go bhfuil an teagmháil leis an teanga agus leis an dátheangachas, i gcoitinne, ina ghné lárnach den dátheangachas agus ina cheist thábhachtach do roinnt daoine. Is léir go bhfuil gá le timpeallacht neamhfhoirmiúil dhátheangach mar 'Caife Gaelach', ina bhféadfadh cainteoirí Gaeilge agus daoine gan Ghaeilge teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an mBéarla agus leis an nGaeilge i ngnáthatmaisféar. Beidh deis ag Gaillimh le Gaeilge agus ag grúpaí pobail agus poiblí eile aghaidh a thabhairt ar an riachtanas seo agus áis dá leithéid a sholáthar don chathair de réir mar a chuirtear an dátheangachas i bhfeidhm. Tríd an áis sin d'fhéadfaí freagairt a thabhairt ar cheist na cuimsitheachta agus na teagmhála leis an teanga, agus deis a thabhairt do ghnáthphobal na Gaillimhe ról a ghlacadh in dhátheangachas na cathrach.

Suggested Structures & Implementation

In drawing from the wide range of sentiments expressed during the course of this exploratory study into bilingualism and bilingual status for Galway city, a number of possible structures for the implementation of such status can be suggested.

Respondents certainly placed a lot of emphasis on how bilingualism could be implemented and gave a wide range of ideas on the subject. As discussed under 'Obstacles', terminology such as 'official' and 'status' conjured images of state-led policies associated with the education sector, but respondents were generally in favour of Galway City Council delivering on components of bilingualisim relevent to a Muncipal Authority. Considering the importance of 'two languages visibly displayed throughout the city', it has been suggested that Galway City Council have a role in implementing a bilingual policy on signage throughout the city through the planning office. Galway City Council have been very sucessful in working with property developers in promoting the use of Irish names for housing estates (a project praised by many respondents) and in recommending the use of Irish to retailers, especially in listed buildings, changing their signage. These recommendations have been well received by the business community and some retailers implied that their companies would only make their signage bilingual if it was part of a greater city policy.

The second suggested structure to implement bilingualism that came to the fore during the research, and from the reflective process that followed the study, is that of a community-driven approach. The inclusive nature of bilingualism was very important to respondents. Various umbrella, business and community groups would be appropriate in making significant contributions to the implementation of bilingualism in the city by engaging with their communities and their members. Some of the groups mentioned throughout the course of the research were: The Galway Chamber, The Irish Hotel Federation, The Vintners Federation, Fáilte Ireland West Region, The Galway City Business Association and Enterprise Ireland. These groups, and others like them, have appropriate structures to ensure wide-ranging participation across the various city communities. Gaillimh le Gaeilge's participation in the Galway City Community Forum and their close colaboration on projects with the Galway Chamber could be very beneficial to this possible structure. However, it must be ensured that all groups have a clear role and a defined level of participation, according to their various natures and consistent with their context, resources and impact at member and community level.

Thirdly, we have seen that access to the language and to bilingualism in general is a central aspect of bilingualism and a central concern to some respondents. It is clear that there is a need for an informal bilingual environment such as a 'café Gaelach', in which both Irish and non-Irish speakers would have exposure to both English and Irish in an 'everyday environment'. The implementation of bilingualism presents an opportunity for Gaillimh le Gaeilge, and other community and public groups, to address this need and provide such a facility in the city. This facility, above any other, would address both the issues of inclusiveness and access, while also ensuring that the people of Galway have a participaratory role in the bilingualism of their city.

Mheas na freagróirí go bhfuil an ghné chuimsitheachta den dátheangachas an-tábhachtach. Bheadh scátheagraíochtaí agus grúpaí gnó agus pobail éagsúla feiliúnach chun cuidiú suntasach a thabhairt d'fhorfheidhmiú an dátheangachais sa chathair trína bpobail agus a mbaill a spreagadh.

The inclusive nature of bilingualism was very important to respondents. Various umbrella, business and community groups would be appropriate in making significant contributions to the implementation of bilingualism in the city by engaging with their communities and their members.

Tátal

Ainneoin gné thaiscéalaíoch an staidéir seo, is féidir roinnt conclúidí soiléire a bhaint ón taighde:

- Is léir go bhfuil comhdhearcadh ann i measc cainteoirí Gaeilge agus daoine gan Ghaeilge go mbeadh stádas dátheangach do Chathair na Gaillimhe ina bhuntáiste mór don chathair. Feictear níos mó cinnteachta i measc cainteoirí Gaeilge faoin tionchar a bheadh ag stádas dá leithéid orthu ó lá go lá, agus cé go bhfuil daoine gan cumas Gaeilge dearfach faoin stádas, i gcoitinne, ní léiríonn siad aon chinnteacht maidir leis na himpleachtaí praiticiúla a bheadh ag stádas oifigiúil dátheangach.
- Is iad na trí fhachtóir is tábhachtaí d'fhonn sainmhíniú a thabhairt ar an dátheangachas i gCathair na Gaillimhe: 'dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach', 'na meáin ar fáil in dhá theanga' agus 'seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ón earnáil phoiblí'.
- Aithnítear go bhfuil an chuimsitheacht ina ghné riachtanach den dátheangachas, agus luaigh na freagróirí go minic an gá le go dtabharfadh tionscnóirí an bheartais aird ar an ngné seo.
- Ní mór aghaidh a thabhairt ar cheist na teagmhála leis an nGaeilge. Tá gá, go háirithe, le deiseanna neamhfhoirmiúla chun go mbeidh daoine in ann teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an dátheangachas. Chuir freagróirí an tsuirbhé an-suim sa smaoineamh a bhain le caifí Ghaeilge. Níl aon chaife den saghas sin i gCathair na Gaillimhe faoi láthair.
- Tá eolas cheana féin ag an bpobal gnó ar an dátheangachas, go mór mór i measc an lucht bainistíochta sinsearaí, agus tuigtear dóibh go soiléir an ról a bheadh acu dá mbronnfaí stádas oifigiúil dátheangach ar an gcathair. Cé go bhfuil dearcadh dearfach go leor le tabhairt faoi deara i measc ghnólachtaí beaga, i gcoitinne, léiríodh imní faoi cheisteanna airgid agus fostaíochta. Bhí a lán gnólachtaí den tuairim gur chóir smaoineamh a dhéanamh ar dhreasachtaí airgid chun go bhféadfadh comhlachtaí an dátheangachas a chur i bhfeidhm mar is cuí.

Is é an tátal a bhaintear ón staidéar gurb é an sainmhíniú is fearr ar an dátheangachas i gCathair na Gaillimhe:

'Gaeilge agus Béarla in úsáid le chéile, i slí iomlán chuimsitheach, i gCathair na Gaillimhe, béim ar leith ar na meáin áitiúla agus ar sheirbhísí ón earnáil phoiblí agus an dá theanga le feiceáil agus le cloisteáil go forleathan ar fud na cathrach'.

Cé gur chuir baill de ghrúpaí áirithe in iúl go raibh siad imníoch faoi na constaicí agus na deacrachtaí a bhain go dtí seo le teagasc na Gaeilge, cuireadh an-fháilte, den chuid is mó, roimh stádas dátheangach do Chathair na Gaillimhe. Nocht na freagróirí a lán tuairimí praiticiúla agus bhí siad sásta a dtuairimí a thabhairt ar mhaithe leis an staidéar. Ar an iomlán, má chuirtear na tuairimí agus na freagraí seo san áireamh agus an dátheangachas á chur i bhfeidhm, beidh toradh dearfach agus buntáisteach aige ar Chathair na Gaillimhe.

Conclusion

Despite the exploratory nature of this study, some clear conclusions can be drawn from the research:

- There is a clear consensus among both Irish and non-Irish speakers that bilingual status for Galway city would be beneficial to the city. However Irish speakers are more sure of how it would effect their daily lives, while non-Irish speakers are generally positive, but less sure of the practical implications an official bilingual status would involve.
- The three factors most important in defining bilingualism in Galway city are: two languages visibly displayed throughout the city' 'media available in two languages' and 'service in two languages available from public bodies'.
- Inclusiveness is widely recognised as a necessary aspect of bilingualism, with respondents frequently citing the need for promoters of such a policy to be vigilant in this area.
- Easy access to the Irish language must be addressed. In particular the need for informal platforms for people to get exposure to bilingualism is important. Irish language cafés were a very appealing idea to respondents. Currently there are no such cafés in Galway city.
- The business community are conscious of bilingualism, particularly at an upper management level and have a clear idea of what their role would be if the city gained official bilingual status. Small businesses were particularly concerned about cost and employment issues but were generally positive about the idea. Many businesses asked that a financial incentive be considered to allow companies to properly implement bilingualism.

It may be concluded from the study that the most appropriate definition of bilingualism for Galway city is:

'The use of Irish and English in Galway city, side by side and in a fully inclusive manner, with particular emphasis on local media, services from the public sector and widespread visibility and audibility throughout the city'

While some groups respondents expressed concern about obstacles and previous difficulties with how the Irish language was taught, generally, respondents were very receptive towards the idea of bilingual status for Galway city. Respondents gave numerous practical ideas and were happy to contribute their opinions to the study. Overall, if these views and responses are taken into consideration in the implementation of bilingualism, it will lead to a positive and beneficial outcome for Galway.

‘Gaeilge agus Béarla in úsáid le chéile, i slí iomlán chuimsitheach, i gCathair na Gaillimhe, béim ar leith ar na meáin áitiúla agus ar sheirbhísí ón earnáil phoiblí agus an dá theanga le feiceáil agus le cloisteáil go forleathan ar fud na cathrach'.

“The use of Irish and English in Galway city, side by side and in a fully inclusive manner, with particular emphasis on local media, services from the public sector and widespread visibility and audibility throughout the city”

Cás-Staidéar: Bolzano/Bozen, An Iodáil

Chun forléargas a fháil ar an tslí a ndeachaigh cathracha eile i ngleic leis an dátheangachas, thug Gaillimh le Gaeilge cuairt ar an gcathair dhátheangach Bolzano/Bozen i dTuaisceart na hIodáile. Bíonn dhá theanga in úsáid sa chathair sin ó lá go lá – an Ghearmáinis agus an Iodáilis. Bhí sé mar aidhm leis an gcuairt sin léargas a fháil ar na struchtúir agus ar na buntáistí a bhaineann leis an dátheangachas sa chathair chun samhail agus eiseamláir a aimsiú don staidéar taiscéalaíoch seo.
Cé go raibh fios ag foireann Ghaillimh le Gaeilge ar na céimeanna difriúla i bhforbairt an dátheangachais ag a bhfuil Cathair na Gaillimhe agus Bolzano/Bozen agus faoi staid na dteangacha sin (mórtheangacha agus ní mionteangacha iad an Ghearmáinis agus an Iodáilis) i gcomparáid le Gaillimh, baintear úsáid as an gcás sin sa staidéar seo mar eiseamláir mhianaidhme don dátheangachas i suíomh uirbeach. Sholáthar an chuairt staidéir comhthéacs maidir leis an gcaoi inar féidir le cathair beartas dátheangach a chur i bhfeidhm agus ardleibhéal tuisceana agus comhionannas teangacha a bhaint amach.

Nuair a thógtar Bolzano/Bozen mar eiseamláir in úsáid an dátheangachais san earnáil tráchtála, is léir gurb é an t-éileamh ó thomhaltóirí an bunspreagadh atá leis. Is mian le cainteoirí Iodáilise agus Gearmáinise gnó a dhéanamh ina rogha teanga agus tugann an margadh freagairt ar an éileamh sin dá réir. Ba léir ó na cainteanna a bhí againn le hionadaithe ó Oifig an Mhéara agus leis an 'Camera di Commercio – Handelskammer' (Cumann Lucht Tráchtála) go gcaillfí an gnó a dhéantar le grúpa teanga amháin dá mba rud é nach raibh an lucht gnó in acmhainn seirbhís a sholáthar sa teanga sin. Is é an mionlach a labhraíonn Gearmáinis sa chathair a bheadh i gceist leis seo den chuid is mó. Ní gnách leis an mionlach Gearmáinise ceist a chur ar chomhlacht faoina bhfuil seirbhís á soláthar acu i nGearmáinis. Glactar leis i gcónaí go bhfuil an tseirbhís sin ar fáil agus cuirtear tús leis an gcumarsáid trí mheán na Gearmáinise. Tá tuiscint sa chathair ar chearta teanga agus tá an tuiscint sin le tabhairt faoi deara freisin san earnáil phríobháideach mar ghnáthghné den saol.

I gcás Bolzano/Bozen tá an dátheangachas san earnáil phoiblí cosanta ag an Reacht Speisialta don Trentino - Alto Adige/Südtirol – an Reacht Féinrialach atá mar Bhunreacht ag an Tioróil Theas. Sa bhliain 1972 rith Rialtas Thioróil Theas reachtaíocht chun cionmhaireachtaí eitneacha a chur i bhfeidhm sna hearnálacha poiblí. Bhí sé de dhualgas ar an earnáil phoiblí an coibhneas sin a bhaint amach faoi 2002 agus bhí gá le saolré 30 bliain chun na cionmhaireachtaí arda Iodálach a bhí fostaithe san earnáil phoiblí a ísliú gan duine ar bith a chur as a bpost. Faoi láthair, tá gá go mbeadh gach duine a fhostaítear sa riarachán poiblí dátheangach, agus bronntar teastas orthu siúd a éiríonn leo sna scrúduithe teanga atá ag teastáil chun post a fháil sa státseirbhís nó chun ardú céime nó aistriú a bhaint amach. Tá an córas á leathnú amach, de réir a chéile, chuig an earnáil phríobháideach, agus is féidir le hinstitiúidí eile a sholáthraíonn seirbhísí poiblí, m.sh. bancanna, an teastas dátheangachais a éileamh mar riachtanas fostaíochta. Sa tslí sin, meastar gurb é an cleachtas atá i bhfeidhm san earnáil phoiblí 'an cleachtas is fearr' do thionscail áirithe san earnáil tráchtála.

Léiríonn cás Bolzano/Bozen meon iomlán difriúil: déantar gach ábhar, comhartha srl. a cheapadh ón tús leis an dátheangachas san áireamh. Ní dhearna an pobal gnó ná an t-údarás cathrach i mBolzano/Bozen aon trácht riamh ar chúraimí airgid, mar go raibh glactha leis an dátheangachas agus le comhionannas teangacha mar ghnáthpháirt den timpeallacht. Bhí sé intuigthe don lucht gnó dá roghnóidís gan teanga amháin a chur san áireamh nach meallfadh siad gnó ón ngrúpa teanga sin.

Case Study: Bolzano/Bozen, Italy

In order to gain a perspective of how other cities have approached bilingualism, Gaillimh le Gaeilge staff visited the bilingual city of Bolzano/Bozen in Northern Italy; a city with two languages in use, German and Italian. The aim of this study visit was to gain an insight into the mechanisms and practicalities of bilingualism in the city for the purpose of identifying a model and contributing an example to this exploratory study research.
Although Gaillimh le Gaeilge staff were aware of the very different stages of bilingual development between Galway city and Bolzano/Bozen and the positions of the languages (German and Italian being strong languages, not minority languages) as opposed to those in Galway, the case is used in this study as an aspirational example for bilingualism in an urban environment. The study visit provided a context of how a city operates a bilingual policy and achieves a high level of linguistic awareness and equality.

Looking to the case of Bolzano/Bozen as an example of the use of bilingualism in the commercial sector, we can see that it is driven completely by consumer demand. Both Italian and German speakers in the community wish to conduct their business in their language of choice and thus the market responds to these demands. Through discussions with representatives from the Mayoral Office and the 'Camera di commercio – Handelskammer' (Chamber of Commerce) it became clear that the business community would lose the business of one linguistic group if they were not able to provide service in that language. For the most part, this applied to the German-speaking minority of the city. They do not, in practice, ask if a company can provide a service in their language. They simply presume it to be the case and begin their communication in German. There is an understanding of linguistic rights in the city and it permeates through to the private sector as a normal part of life.

In Bolzano/Bozen, bilingualism in the public sector is legislated for in the Special Statute for Trentino – Alto Adige/Südtirol – the Autonomy Statute that is regarded as the Constitution of South Tyrol. In 1972 the South Tyrol Government legislated for the application of ethnic proportions in all public sectors. This had to be achieved by 2002 and the time span of 30 years was necessary if the very high proportions of Italians in public employment were to be reduced without dismissals. At present every person employed in the public administration must be bilingual, with language examinations leading to the award of a certificate required for recruitment into the service, for promotion or for transfer. This system has extended somewhat to the private sector, where other institutions carrying out public services, for example banks, may demand certified bilingualism as a pre-requisite for employment. Thus the public sector practice is seen as the 'best practice' model for some industries in the commercial sector.

The case of Bolzano/Bozen illustrated a completely different mentality: material, signage etc. was designed from the outset with bilingualism in mind. Cost concerns were also never raised by either the business community or the city authority in Bolzano/Bozen, because bilingualism and linguistic equality was an accepted reality in the environment. There was a clear acceptance by businesses that if they were not bilingual and chose to exclude one community language, they would not attract the business of the linguistic group they were excluding.

Juwelier FURGLER Gioielliere

DESPAR
URCHGEHENDE ÖFFNUNGSZEITEN

AGUISÍN 1: AN CEISTNEOIR DON SUIRBHÉ SRÁIDE

Cé gur chuir grúpaí áirithe béim ar na constaicí agus ar na deacrachtaí a bhain go dtí seo le teagasc na Gaeilge, cuireadh an-fháilte, den chuid is mó, roimh stádas dátheangach do Chathair na Gaillimhe. Nocht na freagróirí a lán tuairimí praiticiúla agus bhí siad sásta a dtuairimí a thabhairt ar mhaithe leis an staidéar. Ar an iomlán, má chuirtear na tuairimí agus na freagraí seo san áireamh agus an dátheangachas á chur i bhfeidhm, beidh toradh dearfach agus buntáisteach aige ar Chathair na Gaillimhe.

Cur in aithne:
Dia duit. Is mise [+ainm+] agus táim ag obair do chomhlacht margaíochta neamhspleách. Táim i mbun suirbhé inniu le daoine ar shráideanna na Gaillimhe maidir lena ndearcadh agus lena dtuairimí faoin dátheangachas i gCathair na Gaillimhe agus faoi stádas dátheangach don chathair. An mbeadh cúpla nóiméad agat chun roinnt ceisteanna a fhreagairt le do thoil?

Ceist 1: Ceist 1: Cárb as duit?	N	%
Cathair na Gaillimhe	98	20
Contae na Gaillimhe	103	21
Eile	291	59

Ceist 2		
An bhfuil tú:	N	%
Ag staidéar i nGaillimh	142	29
Ag obair i nGaillimh	157	32
Ar cuairt chuig an gcathair i gcomhair:		
• Siopadóireacht	39	8
• Gnó	12	2
• Cúiseanna pearsanta	29	6
• Scíth/Saoire	95	19
• Eile	18	4

Ceist 3: Céard iad na teangacha a thagann chun cuimhne nuair a chloiseann tú an focal 'dátheangachas' i gCathair na Gaillimhe?	N	%
Béarla agus Gaeilge	365	74
Béarla agus teanga eile	90	18
Dhá theanga eile	37	8

Ceist 4:		
Cé chomh tábhachtach agus atá na nithe seo a leanas duitse?	N	%
An Ghaeilge		
an-tábhachtach	211	43
tábhachtach	136	28
níl tuairim agam	35	7
gan mórán tábhachta	59	12
gan aon tábhacht	51	10
Aitheantas Náisiúnta		
an-tábhachtach	313	64
tábhachtach	139	28
níl tuairim agam	15	3
gan mórán tábhachta	18	4
gan aon tábhacht	7	1
Cultúr agus Oidhreacht Ghaelach		
an-tábhachtach	303	62
tábhachtach	138	28
níl tuairim agam	18	4
gan mórán tábhachta	21	4
gan aon tábhacht	12	2

Ceist 5: An gceapann tú go bhfuil fiúntas leis an nGaeilge?	N	%
Tá	403	82
Níl	54	11
Níl a fhios agam	35	7

Miondealú ar na cúiseanna a tugadh leis na freagraí: (go huimhriúil)
Tá – Cultúr 14; Féiniúlacht 34; Stair/traidisiún 8; Geilleagar 2; Óige 2; Caomhnú teanga 2; le cloisteáil/á labhairt 5
Níl – Teanga mharbh 1; gan úsáid/labhairt 4; éigeantas/brú 4

Ceist 6: Cé chomh tábhachtach, i do thuairim, agus atá an Ghaeilge d'íomhá chultúrtha Chathair na Gaillimhe?	N	%
an-tábhachtach	198	40
tábhachtach	180	37
níl tuairim agam	39	8
gan mórán tábhachta	55	11
gan aon tábhacht	20	4

Ceist 7: An gceapann tú gur cathair dhátheangach í Gaillimh?	N	%
Ceapann	254	52
Ní cheapann	166	34
Níl a fhios agam	72	14

Miondealú ar na cúiseanna a tugadh leis na freagraí: (go huimhriúil)
Ceapann – an Ghaeilge á labhairt 10; gar don Ghaeltacht 2; an dátheangachas le tabhairt faoi deara 4
Ní cheapann – teangacha eile á labhairt 11; níl an Ghaeilge á labhairt/le cloisteáil 21

Ceist 8: Cé chomh tábhachtach agus atá na gnéithe seo a leanas ionas go mbeadh cathair dátheangach?		
Dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach	N	%
an-tábhachtach	240	49
tábhachtach	123	25
níl tuairim agam	71	14
gan mórán tábhachta	30	6
gan aon tábhacht	28	6
Dhá theanga le cloisteáil ar na sráideanna		
an-tábhachtach	225	46
tábhachtach	135	27
níl tuairim agam	72	15
gan mórán tábhachta	37	7
gan aon tábhacht	23	5
Imeachtaí sóisialta in dhá theanga		
an-tábhachtach	193	39
tábhachtach	132	27
níl tuairim agam	87	18
gan mórán tábhachta	56	11
gan aon tábhacht	24	5
Seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga i siopaí/gnólachtaí		
an-tábhachtach	200	41
tábhachtach	141	29
níl tuairim agam	67	14
gan mórán tábhachta	57	11
gan aon tábhacht		27
Seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ó eagrais phoiblí		
an-tábhachtach	244	50
tábhachtach	118	24
níl tuairim agam	61	12
gan mórán tábhachta	40	8
gan aon tábhacht	29	6
Na meáin (nuachtáin/raidió srl.) ar fáil in dhá theanga		
an-tábhachtach	261	53
tábhachtach	119	24
níl tuairim agam	66	14
gan mórán tábhachta	25	5
gan aon tábhacht	21	4

Ceist 9: Céard iad na cúinsí atá riachtanach chun go mbeadh cathair dátheangach?		
Dhá theanga le feiceáil go soiléir ar fud na cathrach	N	%
Riachtanach	442	90
Neamhriachtanach	50	10
Dhá theanga le cloisteáil ar na sráideanna		
Riachtanach	435	88
Neamhriachtanach	57	12
Imeachtaí sóisialta in dhá theanga		
Riachtanach	407	83
Neamhriachtanach	85	17
Seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga i siopaí/gnólachtaí		
Riachtanach	415	84
Neamhriachtanach	77	16
Seirbhísí ar fáil in dhá theanga ó eagrais phoiblí		
Riachtanach	428	87
Neamhriachtanach	64	13
Na meáin (nuachtáin/raidió srl.) ar fáil in dhá theanga		
Riachtanach	441	90
Neamhriachtanach	51	10

Ceist 10: Meas tú an mbeadh sé go maith stádas oifigiúil dátheangach a bheith ag Gaillimh?	N	%
Bheadh	373	76
Ní bheadh	29	6
Níl a fhios agam	90	18

Miondealú ar na cúiseanna a tugadh leis na freagraí: (go huimhriúil)
Bheadh – Féiniúlacht 13; turasóireacht 7; an Ghaeltacht 2; cúiseanna cultúrtha 2; an geilleagar 1; ghlacfaí páirt níos mó ann 4;
Ní bheadh – ní dhéanfadh sé aon difríocht 2; ní labhrófaí an teanga 1;

Ceist 11: An mbeadh tionchar aige ar do shaol laethúil dá mbeadh stádas oifigiúil dátheangach ag Cathair na Gaillimhe?	N	%
Bheadh	156	32
Ní bheadh	252	51
Níl a fhios agam	84	17

Miondealú ar na cúiseanna a tugadh leis na freagraí: (go huimhriúil)
Bheadh – dhéanfaí iarracht í a fhoghlaim 4; labhrófaí í níos minice 9; chloisfí í níos minice 1;
Ní bheadh – ní labhraíonn Gaeilge 1; laghdú ar dheiseanna fostaíochta 1;

Ceist 12: D'fhreagróirí ó Chathair na Gaillimhe - an mbeadh tú mórálach as stádas mar seo?	N	%
Bheadh	81	83
Ní bheadh	10	10
Níl a fhios agam	7	7

Ceist 13: Do chuairteoirí chuig an gcathair – an meallfadh sé cuairteoirí go dtí an chathair?	N	%
Mheallfadh	126	72
Ní mheallfadh	19	11
Níl a fhios agam	30	17

Ceist 14: An bhfuil eolas agat ar an eagraíocht Gaillimh le Gaeilge?	N	%
Tá	129	26
Níl	363	74

Ceist 15:		
Cén náisiúntacht atá agat?	N	%
Éire	400	81
Tuaisceart Éireann	13	3
An Bhreatain	21	4
An Eoraip	25	5
Meiriceá Thuaidh/Ceanada	19	4
Eile	14	3

Ceist 16:		
Céard é d'inscne?	N	%
Fear	183	37
Bean	309	63

Ceist 17:	N	%
Cén aoisghrúpa lena mbaineann tú?		
15-20	123	25
21-30	182	37
31-40	84	17
41-50	54	11
50+	49	10

Ceist 18:		
An bhfuil Gaeilge agat?	N	%
No	138	28
Yes, fluently	92	19
Yes, I have a good command	110	22
Yes, I have a few words	152	31

Ceist 19:
An mian leat aon tuairimí eile a thabhairt?
Tuairimí dearfacha (m.sh. smaoineamh maith atá ann, ba bhreá liom níos mó Gaeilge a chloisteáil srl.) 18 Tuairimí diúltacha (m.sh. drochtheagasc na teanga, níl an teanga tábhachtach) 10

APPENDIX 1: STREET SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

While some groups responses placed emphasis on obstacles and previous difficulties with how the Irish language was taught, generally, respondents were very receptive towards the idea of bilingual status for Galway city. Respondents gave numerous practical ideas and were happy to contribute their opinions to the study. Overall, if these views and responses are taken into consideration in the implementation of bilingualism, it will lead to a positive and beneficial outcome for Galway.

Question Intro:
Hi. My name is [+name+] from an independent market research company and I am undertaking a survey of people on the streets of Galway today about their perceptions and opinions on bilingualism in Galway city and possible bilingual status for Galway city. Could you spare a few minutes to answer some questions?

Question 1: Where are you from?	N	%
Galway city	98	20
Galway county	103	21
Other	291	59

Question 2		
Are you:	N	%
In education in Galway city	142	29
Working in Galway city	157	32
Visiting Galway city for:		
• Shopping	39	8
• On business	12	2
• Personal reasons	29	6
• Leisure break/holiday	95	19
• Other	18	4

Question 3: What languages do you think of when you hear the word 'bilingualism' in Galway city?	N	%
English and Irish	365	74
English and another language	90	18
Another two languages	37	8

Question 4:		
How important are the following to you?:	N	%
Irish language		
very important	211	43
important	136	28
don't have an opinion	35	7
not really important	59	12
not important at all	51	10
National Identity		
very important	313	64
important	139	28
don't have an opinion	15	3
not really important	18	4
not important at all	7	1
Irish Culture and Heritage		
very important	303	62
important	138	28
don't have an opinion	18	4
not really important	21	4
not important at all	12	2

Question 5: Do you think the Irish language has a value?	N	%
Yes	403	82
No	54	11
Don't know	35	7

Breakdown of reasons given for answers: (Numerical)
Yes –Culture related 14; Identity related 34; History/tradition 8; Economy 2; Youth 2; Preserve language 2; Heard/spoken 5
No - Dead language 1; Not used/spoken 4; Imposed/pushed 4

Question 6: How important do you think the Irish language is to Galway city's cultural image?	N	%
very important	198	40
important	180	37
don't have an opinion	39	8
not really important	55	11
not important at all	20	4

Question 7: In your opinion is Galway a bilingual city?	N	%
Yes	254	52
No	166	34
Don't know	72	14

Breakdown of reasons given for answers: (Numerical)
Yes – Irish is spoken 10; Proximity to Gaeltacht 2; Visibility of bilingualism 4
No – Other foreign languages spoken 11; Irish not spoken/heard 21

Question 8: How important are the following factors for a city to be a bilingual city?		
Two languages visibly displayed throughout the city	N	%
very important	240	49
important	123	25
don't have an opinion	71	14
not really important	30	6
not important at all	28	6
Hear two languages on the city streets		
very important	225	46
important	135	27
don't have an opinion	72	15
not really important	37	7
not important at all	23	5
Social events in two languages		
very important	193	39
important	132	27
don't have an opinion	87	18
not really important	56	11
not important at all	24	5
Service in two languages available in shops/ businesses		
very important	200	41
important	141	29
don't have an opinion	67	14
not really important	57	11
not important at all	27	5
Service in two languages available from public sector		
very important	244	50
important	118	24
don't have an opinion	61	12
not really important	40	8
not important at all	29	6
Media (newspapers/radio etc.) available in two languages		
very important	261	53
important	119	24
don't have an opinion	66	14
not really important	25	5
not important at all	21	4

Question 9: What factors are necessary for a city to be bilingual Two languages visibly displayed throughout the city	N	%
Necessary	442	90
Not necessary	50	10
Hear two languages on the city streets		
Necessary	435	88
Not necessary	57	12
Social events in two languages		
Necessary	407	83
Not necessary	85	17
Service in two languages available in shops/ businesses		
Necessary	415	84
Not necessary	77	16
Service in two languages available from public sector		
Necessary	428	87
Not necessary	64	13
Media (newspapers/radio etc.) available in two languages		
Necessary	441	90
Not necessary	51	10

Question 10: Do you think it would be good for Galway to have official bilingual status?	N	%
Yes	373	76
No	29	6
Don't know	90	18

Breakdown of reasons given for answers: (Numerical)
Yes – Identity-related comments 13; good for tourism 7; good for Gaeltacht 2; cultural reasons 2; economy 1; would get involved more 4;
No – would make no difference 2; language not spoken 1;

Question 11: Do you think it would influence your daily life if Galway city had official bilingual status?	N	%
Yes	156	32
No	252	51
Don't know	84	17

Breakdown of reasons given for answers: (Numerical)
Yes - Would make effort to learn 4; would speak it more 9; hear it more 1;
No – don't speak Irish 1; decrease job availability 1;

Question 12: For respondents from Galway city, would you be proud of such a status?	N	%
Yes	81	83
No	10	10
Don't know	7	7

Question 13: For visitors to Galway city, would it be an attraction to visit the city?	N	%
Yes	126	72
No	19	11
Don't know	30	17

Question 14: Are you aware of the organisation Gaillimh le Gaeilge?	N	%
Yes	129	26
No	363	74

Question 15:		
What is your nationality?	N	%
Irish	400	81
Northern Irish	13	3
English (UK)	21	4
European	25	5
North American/ Canadian	19	4
Other	14	3

Question 16:		
What is your gender?	N	%
Male	183	37
Female	309	63

Question 17:	N	%
In which of the following age brackets are you?		
15-20	123	25
21-30	182	37
31-40	84	17
41-50	54	11
50+	49	10

Question 18:		
Can you speak Irish?	N	%
No	138	28
Yes, fluently	92	19
Yes, I have a good command	110	22
Yes, I have a few words	152	31

Question 19:
Would you like to add any other comments?
Positive comments (e.g. it's a good idea, would love to see more Irish etc) 18
Negative comments (e.g. language taught badly, not important) 10