

AN DAONÁIREAMH, 1961.

IMLEABHAR IX - AN GHAELIGE

NÓTAÍ MÍNIÚCHÁIN

San imleabhar seo déantar líon na ndaoine trí bliana d'aois nó os a chionn a aicmiú de réir a n-eolais ar an nGaeilge, de thoradh an Daonáirimh a rinneadh oíche an 9 Aibreán, 1961. Tom-saíodh an t-eolas as na freagraí a tugadh ar an treoir seo a leanas ar sceideal an Daonáirimh:-

Labhairt na Gaeilge.

Is ceart an cheist seo a fhreagairt i dtaobh gach duine atá trí bliana d'aois nó os a chionn. Fág bán i gcás leanaí faoi bhun trí bliana. Scríobh "Gaeilge amháin" do dhaoine nach bhfuil acu ach Gaeilge. Scríobh "Gaeilge agus Béarla" do dhaoine a bhfuil labhairt na Gaeilge agus an Bhéarla acu. Do dhaoine ar féidir leo Gaeilge a léamh ach gan bheith in ann í a labhairt, scríobh "Léamh na Gaeilge gan bheith in ann í a labhairt".

Ná scríobh dada os coinne ainmneacha daoine nach bhfuil léamh ná labhairt na Gaeilge acu.

B'ionann an treoir sin agus an ceann a tugadh i nDaonáireamh, 1946, is é sin an Daonáireamh ba dhéanaí roimhe sin ina raibh ceist faoin nGaeilge sa sceideal. Sa rangú a dhéantar san imleabhar seo, taispeántar mar Ghaeilgeoirí daoine sa dá aicme thosaigh i dteannta a chéile, agus taispeántar mar neamh-Ghaeilgeoirí na daoine sa dá aicme eile. Sin mar a rinneadh sa Tuarascáil ar an Daonáireamh, 1946.

Is féidir freagra cruinn a thabhairt ar na ceisteanna i sceideal an Daonáirimh a bhaineann le Gnéas, leis an Dáta a rugadh, le Pósadh, le Slí Bheatha, etc., ach na freagraí a thugtar ar an gceist faoi "Labhairt na Gaeilge" braitheann siad cuid mhaith ar bhreithiúnas an duine a bheadh ag líonadh na foirme. Níorbh fhéidir modh a aimsiú, a bheadh simplí go leor le haghaidh Daonáirimh, chun caighdeán seasmhach a thabhairt le daoine a rangú ina ndaoine "a bhfuil labhairt na Gaeilge" acu agus ina ndaoine nach bhfuil. Dá bhrí sin ní féidir an staidreamh atá san imleabhar seo a ghlacadh mar staidreamh atá chomh cruinn céanna leis an staidreamh in imleabhair eile an Daonáirimh. Mar sin féin, d'fhéadfadh an staidreamh don Ghaeilge a bheith suimiúil chun comparáid a dhéanamh idir limistéir éagsúla sa tír agus idir an Daonáireamh seo agus Daonáirimh roimhe ach i gcás aon fheidhm a bhaint as na sonraí seo ní foláir cuimhneamh ar an easpa cruinnis oibiachtúil dá dtagraítear thuas.

Tá an t-imleabhar seo leagtha amach ar an dóigh chéanna leis na h-imleabhair chomhréire a bhain le Daonáirimh 1936 agus 1946, inar foilsíodh sonraí faoi eolas ar an nGaeilge i gcás an líon daoine a bhí trí bliana d'aois nó os a chionn. Taispeántar figiúirí comparáideacha do 1926, 1936 agus 1946 i dtaobh an líon daoine a bhí trí bliana d'aois nó os a chionn agus figiúirí do gach Daonáireamh anuas go dtí 1926 i dtaobh an daonra iomláin i ngach aois. Tabharfar faoi deara ó fhiúirí 1926 i dTábla I go dtugann eisiámh na ndaoine faoi bhun trí bliana d'aois claonadh i leith ardú beag ar an bhfigiúr do Ghaeilgeoirí mar chéatadán den iomlán.

Tá na táblaí staidrimh san imleabhar seo inchurtha i dt trí roinn. Baineann Táblaí 1 go 7, go huile, leis an Stát ar fad. Baineann Táblaí 8 agus 9 le limistéir na Fíor-Ghaeltachta agus na Breac-Ghaeltachta de réir mar atá siad mínithe i dTuarascáil Choimisiúin na Gaeltachta, 1925. Baineann Táblaí 10 go 13 leis an nGaeltacht mar a mhínítear sin le hOrdú na Limistéirí Gaeltachta, 1956. I gcás na dTáblaí don Stát agus don Fhíor-Ghaeltacht agus don Bhreac-Ghaeltacht tugtar figiúirí comparáideacha ó Dhaonáirimh roimhe seo aon uair is féidir sin. I gcás na Gaeltachta mar a mhínítear sin le hOrdú na Limistéirí Gaeltachta, 1956, áfach, ní féidir figiúirí comparáideacha a thabhairt i dtaobh Gaeilgeoirí agus neamh-Ghaeilgeoirí i nDaonáirimh roimhe seo ach i dTáblaí 10 agus 13 tugtar an daonra iomlán do gach aois i réigiúin laistigh den nua-Ghaeltacht le haghaidh comparáide le figiúirí comhréire 1961.

San Fhíor-Ghaeltacht, mar a mhínítear í i dTuarascáil Choimisiúin na Gaeltachta, 1925, bhí codanna de na contaethe seo - An Clár, Corcaigh, Dún na nGall, Gaillimh, Ciarraí, Maigh Eo agus Port Láirge. Sa Bhreac-Ghaeltacht, i dteannta codanna de na contaethe sin, bhí limistéir bheaga i gContae Shligigh agus i gContae Thiobraid Árann. Nuair a bhí an Tuarascáil i dtaobh na Gaeilge á hullmhú i nDaonáirimh 1926, 1936 agus 1946, tharla, de dhearmad is cosúil, nár áiríodh na limistéir sin i gContae Shligigh agus i gContae Thiobraid Árann sa Bhreac-Ghaeltacht. Tá coigeartú air sin san Imleabhar seo. Ceartaíodh san imleabhar seo earráid a bhí i dTuarascáil 1946 i dtaobh na bhfigiúirí don Fhíor-Ghaeltacht agus don Bhreac-Ghaeltacht i gContae Chiarraí.

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1961.

VOLUME IX - IRISH LANGUAGE

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

This volume contains classifications of the population aged three years of age and over by knowledge of the Irish language, derived from the Census of Population taken on the night of 9 April, 1961. The information was compiled from replies given to the following instruction on the Census schedule:-

Ability to speak the Irish language.

This question should be answered for persons aged three years and over. Leave blank for children under three years of age. Write "Irish only" for those persons who can speak only Irish. Write "Irish and English" for those who can speak Irish and English. For persons who can read but cannot speak Irish write "Read but cannot speak Irish".

Do not write anything opposite names of persons who can neither read nor speak Irish.

This instruction was similar to that used at the 1946 Census of Population, this being the most recent previous Census at which the schedule contained a question on the Irish language. In the classifications in the present volume, persons in the first two of the above categories combined are shown as Irish speakers, while those in the two remaining categories are shown as non-Irish speakers. This procedure is the same as that adopted in preparing the Report of the 1946 Census.

Whereas the questions on the Census schedule relating to Sex, Date of birth, Marital condition, Occupation, etc. can be answered precisely, the replies given to the question on "Ability to speak the Irish language" depend to a large extent on the judgment of the person completing the form. It has not been found possible to devise a method, simple enough for Census purposes, to provide an invariable standard for classifying persons into those who "can speak Irish" and those who cannot. Consequently the statistics contained in the present volume cannot be regarded as being precise in the same degree as those in the other volumes of the Census. The statistics of Irish language may, nevertheless, be of interest for purposes of comparison between different areas of the country and between this and previous Censuses but in any use of these data the lack of objective precision referred to above must be borne in mind.

The present volume follows the pattern adopted in the corresponding volumes of the 1936 and 1946 Censuses, in which particulars of knowledge of the Irish language were published in respect of the population aged three years and over. Comparative figures for 1926, 1936 and 1946 in respect of the population aged three years and over and figures for each Census up to 1926 for the total population at all ages are shown. It will be observed from the 1926 figures in Table 1 that the exclusion of persons under three years of age tends to raise slightly the figure representing Irish speakers as a percentage of the total.

The statistical tables contained in this volume fall into three sections. Tables 1 to 7 relate to the whole State. Tables 8 and 9 relate to the Fíor-Ghaeltacht and Breac-Ghaeltacht areas as defined in the Gaeltacht Commission Report, 1925. Tables 10 to 13 relate to the Gaeltacht as defined by the Gaeltacht Areas Order, 1956. In the case of the tables for the State and for the Fíor-Ghaeltacht and Breac-Ghaeltacht comparable figures derived from earlier Censuses of Population are given wherever possible. In the case of the Gaeltacht as defined by the Gaeltacht Areas Order, 1956, however, it is not possible to give comparable figures in respect of Irish speakers and non-Irish speakers at earlier Censuses but in Tables 10 and 13 the total populations of all ages in regions within the new Gaeltacht are shown for comparison with the corresponding 1961 figures.

The Fíor-Ghaeltacht, as defined in the Gaeltacht Commission Report, 1925, contained portions of the Counties of Clare, Cork, Donegal, Galway, Kerry, Mayo and Waterford. The Breac-Ghaeltacht, in addition to including portions of the foregoing counties, contained small areas in the Counties of Sligo and Tipperary. Due, apparently to an oversight in the preparation of the Irish language Reports of the 1926, 1936 and 1946 Censuses, these areas in County Sligo and County Tipperary were not included in the Breac-Ghaeltacht. The position has been rectified in the present volume. An error in the figures for the Fíor and Breac-Ghaeltacht in County Kerry in the 1946 Report has been corrected in the present volume.