**Three birds with one stone: A methodological triangulation to gain insight into Scottish Gaelic morphosyntax**

**Abstract**

Linguistic variation in Scottish Gaelic is a vibrant field of study, and impressive and comprehensive projects have sought to understand linguistic and sociolinguistic phenomena found in Gaelic, most notably the Linguistic Survey of Scotland (Gaelic) (LSS(G)) between 1951 and 1963, and Dorian’s work in East Sutherland since the 1970s. Much of the interest in regional variation in Gaelic has been concerned with phonetic description or phonological analysis, e.g. the published volumes of the Survey of the Gaelic Dialects of Scotland (SGDS) (Ó Dochartaigh 1997). However, much of the work has overlooked morphosyntax (see Iosad and Lamb 2016). As well as morphosyntax proving to be elusive in the literature on variation in Gaelic, I identified two other immediate concerns for Gaelic linguistics that could be incorporated into my methodology: (1) Bell et al. (2014) stipulated that the description of the traditional vernacular Gaelic of older speakers was an immediate priority for corpus development, and (2) documentation methods have developed, and another generation has grown up and reached senior years since the last meaningful dialectology project, LSS(G). Therefore, I sought to address these gaps in Gaelic scholarship by undertaking fieldwork in today’s traditional speaker heartland (the Hebrides), which made use of a triangulation of linguistic research methods: documentation, dialectology, and variationist sociolinguistics. In this paper, I will describe how the methods I used in my doctoral research capture data on morphosyntactic processes and how they mark morphosyntactic function in Gaelic, while simultaneously documenting natural speech and providing data that can be compared directly with the data in LSS(G). I will focus on nominal case morphology (including attributive adjectives), providing a preliminary analysis of the data. I will discuss whether the data suggests that morphosyntactic variation emits a geographic signal and/or indicates changes, and where this will take my doctoral research.

**Keywords**

Scottish Gaelic, morphology, syntax, sociolinguistics, variation, dialectology, documentation

**References**

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