


# Journal of Linguistics



Nach saor mo spearad 's mo chàil  
's mi nam mhàl a' deacadh dàin,  
no 'm bràigh mi aig liuthad lid',  
mar chàch a dhruideas nan dàil,

'S duilleach an daraich ri toirm,  
a bhunait toinnt' leinn 's ar là,  
tha dhuircean ri dàir nam cheann,  
's trom bhilean teannaidh a bhlàth.

Are my intellect and taste not free  
as engrossed I write a song,  
or am I captive to all its words  
like everyone under their sway,

While the oak rustles its leaves,  
whose roots are entwined with our day,  
its seed breeds in my mind,  
and on my lips it turns to bloom.

Perfect end rhyme between b:d  
Consonance between a:c  
Internal rhyme within couplets  
*Aicill* within couplets  
Alliteration within the line

# JOURNAL OF LINGUISTICS

THE JOURNAL OF THE LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

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For the three covers of our fiftieth anniversary volume, the *Journal* has commissioned three new poems on the topic of language. For the second issue, Meg Bateman has written in the classical Gaelic metre *ramnaigheacht mhór* (great versification). For discussion, see the anthology edited by Wilson McLeod and Meg Bateman *Duanaire na sracaire. Songbook of the pillagers. Anthology of Medieval Gaelic poetry* (Birlinn, 2007), and the account by Eleanor Knott *An introduction to Irish syllabic poetry of the period 1200–1600* (DIAS, 1957). The linguistics of Gaelic rhyme and alliteration is discussed in Joseph L. Malone's 1996 *Phonology* article 'Orthometric patterns and prephonetic interfacing: A reply to Manaster Ramet'. The book is published online by Cambridge University Press.