

## Towards a definition of diminutive in Modern Welsh

Karolina Rosiak (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań)

Diminutives are very common in many languages and are considered by some scholars to be a language universal. In inflectional languages they seem to feature as a morphological category whereas in non-inflectional languages different constructions are used to express diminutive meaning. Diminutive derivations are very common within the Indo-European context, including the Celtic languages: predominantly Breton, but also Welsh and Irish Gaelic. Modern Welsh possess fourteen diminutive affixes (Heinz 2004) which are productive to greater or lesser extent.

This paper will focus on diminutives formed morphologically. First, however, a definition of what a diminutive is should be formed. In order to come closer to such a definition a theoretical discussion on this morphological category will be pursued. Selected works devoted to diminutives in Indo-European languages as well as languages belonging to other families will be discussed. Then, a definition of Modern Welsh diminutives will be proposed and the areas for further research will be propounded.

### References

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