



# Teaching Latgalian: problems and solutions (including some Scottish inspirations)

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“LATGALIEŠU RAKSTU VALODA IZGLĪTĪBĀ UN PĒTNIECĪBĀ”

*Riga, 26 April 2019*

# Introduction

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**You can download this presentation here:**

<https://ltgnui.com/> (menu: materials)

Who I am and what I do:

<http://naunicol-e.home.amu.edu.pl/>

**Project CoLing:** Minority Languages, Major Opportunities. Collaborative Research, Community Engagement and Innovative Educational Tools

<https://coling.al.uw.edu.pl/>

My site with Latgalian teaching materials:

<https://ltgnui.com/>

# Structure of this talk

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- ❖ The Scots language – parallels with Latgalian
- ❖ Latgalian in education: Problems and solutions
  - Overview
  - Integration of Latgalian into the curriculum
  - Teaching materials
  - Varieties and norms
- ❖ Research and education: what do we need most urgently?

# What is Scots and what does it have in common with Latgalian?

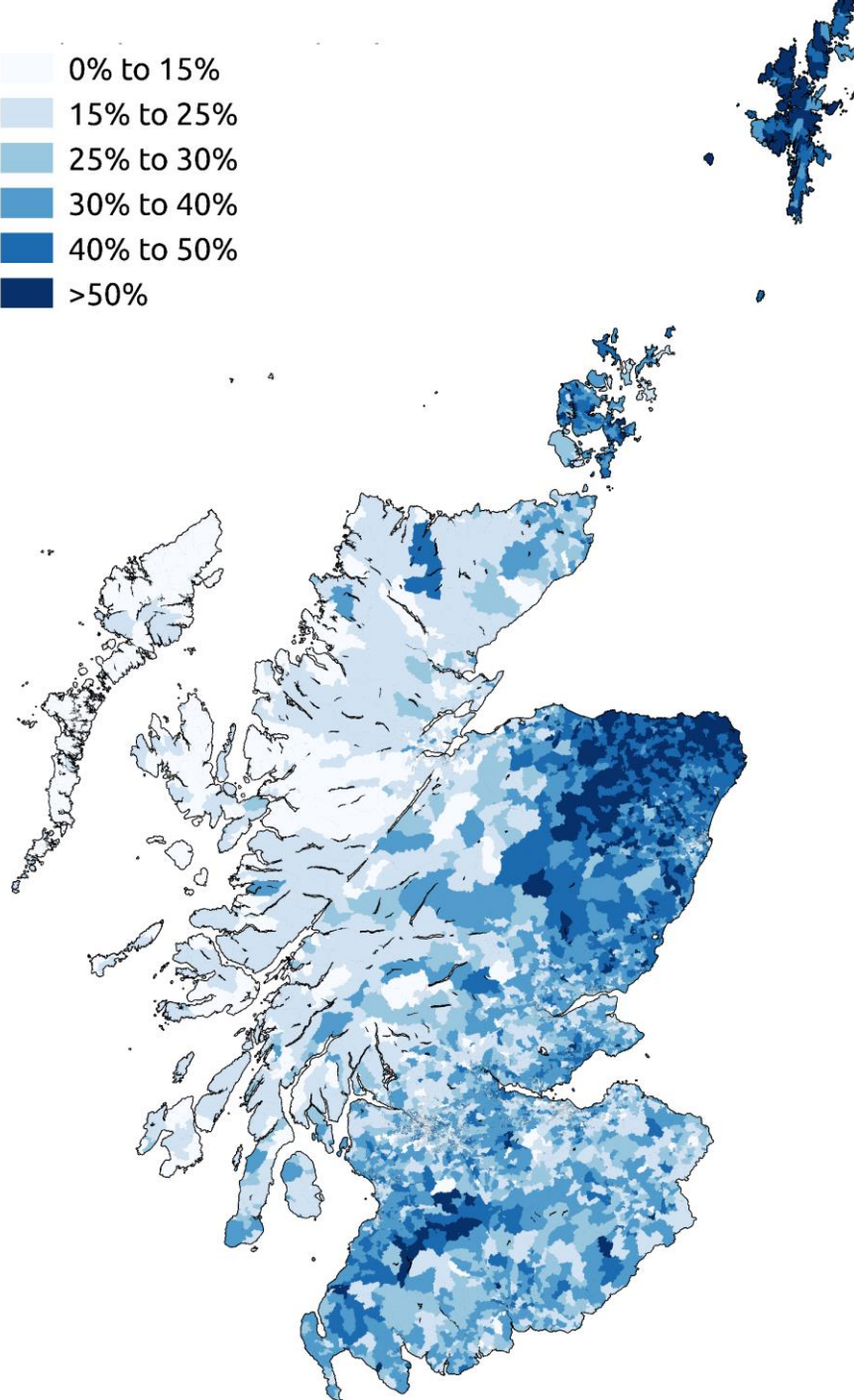
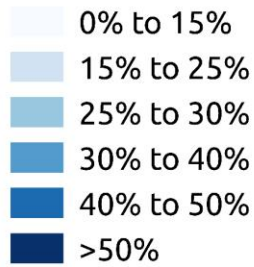
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«**Scots language**, also called **Lowland Scots**, the historic [language](#) of the people of Lowland [Scotland](#), and one closely related to English.» (*britannica.com*)

«The Scots language is an important part of Scotland's culture and heritage, appearing in songs, poetry and literature, as well as daily use in our communities.»  
(<https://www.gov.scot/policies/languages/scots/>)

«Scots is one of Scotland's indigenous languages, along with English and Gaelic.» (*scotslanguage.com*)

=> special status, protection by the government



The proportion of respondents in the 2011 census in Scotland aged 3 and above who stated that they can speak Scots.

Map by SkateTier - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=31997403>

# Latgalian in education: background information

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*The Latgalian language in education in Latvia*. 2009. (Mercator Regional Dossiers: Latgalian.) Compiled by Sanita Lazdiņa, Heiko F. Marten and Ilga Šuplinska. Leeuwarden: Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning.  
[http://www.mercator-research.eu/research-projects/regionaldossiers/090603.regional\\_dossier\\_latgalian\\_in\\_latvia.pdf](http://www.mercator-research.eu/research-projects/regionaldossiers/090603.regional_dossier_latgalian_in_latvia.pdf)

Pošeiko, Solvita. 2017. The development of the Latgalian written language. In: *The language situation in Latvia 2010-2015. A sociolinguistic study*, ed. in chief Gunta Kļava, 173-193. Riga: Latvian Language Agency, 2017. [https://valoda.lv/en/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/LSL\\_ENG\\_2017\\_web.pdf](https://valoda.lv/en/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/LSL_ENG_2017_web.pdf)

The state of the art in 2018: My report. Find it here:  
<https://ltgnui.com/materials-workshop-in-riga-26-april-2019/>

# What are the main problems in teaching (in) Latgalian?

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Source: Discussions with teachers and language activists in 2018, focussing on teaching the language to children and teenagers.

- ❖ **no clear place in school curricula**, only taught in selective classes and extracurricular activities
- ❖ **educators are unsure about or afraid of using Latgalian in class** (this is noticed already in preschool education);
- ❖ presence of Latgalian in schools depends on initiatives of individual teachers and attitudes of school boards;
- ❖ small village schools in areas where Latgalian is strong are being closed because of demographic factors;

# (continued)

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- ❖ Some parents are afraid that the use of Latgalian may prevent children to acquire correct Latvian.
- ❖ **lack of modern language teaching material**, especially for teenagers;
- ❖ lack of teaching aids with Latgalian as language of instruction for subjects other than Regional studies;
- ❖ **teachers are not prepared** (have not been trained) to teach Latgalian or use Latgalian as language of instruction;



# continued

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- ❖ spoken varieties (local dialects) differ from the written variety;
- ❖ **lack of standardization of grammar** (many open questions);
- ❖ teachers and parents have strict ideas about correctness;
- ❖ the similarity of the languages often leads to mixing of Latgalian with Latvian and to a strong influence of Latvian on Latgalian grammar.

# Selected problem no. 1

## Integration into curriculum

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What is done in Scotland? (see next slides)

What could be done in Latvia?

The new Latvian curriculum for mother tongue education opens many opportunities, even if Latgalian is not mentioned explicitly.

# Scots in the school curriculum

## 1. General and within English lessons

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Scots is an important part of the new school curriculum.

The clear and strong statements made in Curriculum for Excellence about the value of Scots to learning and literacy should give adults and teachers confidence to explore the language for themselves.

Scotland has a rich diversity of languages, including Scots...  
Building the Curriculum 1: Languages

I develop and extend my literacy skills when I have opportunities to:

- engage with and create a wide range of texts (1)
- develop my understanding of what is special, vibrant and valuable about my own and other cultures and languages
- explore the richness and diversity of language (2) and how it can affect me

(1) Texts...may also include writing in Scots.

(2) The languages of Scotland will include the languages which children and young people bring to the classroom.

Literacy and English experiences and outcomes

[http://www.scotseducation.co.uk/  
scotsandcurriculum.html](http://www.scotseducation.co.uk/scotsandcurriculum.html)

# See also:

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In the **Literacy and English: Principles and Practice** document (2009), one of the key documents of **Curriculum for Excellence**, it says of Scots that, ‘the languages, dialects and literature of Scotland provide a rich resource for children and young people to learn about Scotland’s culture, identity and language. Through engaging with a wide range of texts they will develop an appreciation of Scotland’s vibrant literary and linguistic heritage and its indigenous languages and dialects. This principle suffuses the experiences and outcomes and it is expected that practitioners will build upon the diversity of language represented within the communities of Scotland, valuing the languages which children and young people bring to school.’

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scots-language-policy-english/>

## 2. As an «additional language»

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Scotland has adopted the «Mother tongue + 2» goal of the EU as the «1 + 2 approach» in language education (2012).

Municipalities can determine which languages are taught. «Additional languages» include traditional foreign languages such as French, important world languages such as Chinese, immigrant languages such as Polish or Urdu, and «Scotland's own languages».

«The Government's languages policy offers the opportunity to reflect on the development of Scotland as a diverse, complex, multicultural and multilingual nation. We, as a nation, should celebrate this diversity and the diverse languages in our midst. This diversity includes **Scotland's own languages, Gaelic and Scots.**»  
(*Language Learning in Scotland*)

# Implementation report (2016): Languages chosen by local authorities in primary schools as L2 (left) and L3 (right)

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1. French - 24
2. Spanish - 14
3. Gaelic (L) - 6
4. German - 5
5. Mandarin - 2
6. Italian - 1
7. Urdu - 1
8. English - 1

[\* 2 LAs did not specify L2]

1. Spanish - 19
2. German - 16
3. French - 14
4. Mandarin - 13
5. Gaelic (L) - 12
6. BSL - 8
7. Italian - 6
8. Scots - 4
9. Latin - 2
10. Polish - 1
11. Russian - 1
12. Urdu - 1
13. Arabic - 1
14. Community/heritage languages
15. Makaton



# Possibilities of including Scots into the curriculum are explained in a booklet

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This briefing for practitioners is intended to explore the aims and purposes of including the Scots language as part of Curriculum for Excellence. It can also be used to inform partners, learners and their parents and carers about the Scots language.

**CfE** Briefing <sup>17</sup>

Curriculum for Excellence: Scots Language

# State funded organizations



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## Scots education

[Education Scotland](#) has a Scot Language co-ordinator who is working with education authorities and schools to support the teaching of Scots as part of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). More information is available in the [CfE briefing](#).

## Scots organisations

In 2009 we ensured the financial security of two important Scots organisations by taking over responsibility for their direct funding from the Scottish Arts Council. These are:

- [Scots Language Centre](#) 
- [Scottish Language Dictionaries](#) 

From 2016 to 2017 we provided around £400,000 in funding to these bodies and other Scots projects.

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/languages/scots/>



# Selected problem no. 2

## Teaching material

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There are a few teaching aids for Latgalian that have been approved for use in schools and some others that may be used additionally. Examples from recent years:

Cibuļs, Juris & Leikuma, Lidija. 2014. *Skreineite*. [Elementary reading and writing for kindergartens and primary schools]

Leikuma, Lideja & Dundure, Veronika & Vulāne, Anna. 2017. *Oluteņš. Latgalīšu rokstu volūda 4. klasei*. [Textbook for Latgalian within Regional studies in upper primary education]

Šuplinska Ilga & Rundāne, Liga & Andrejeva, Aelita. 2017. *Gostūs pi Boņuka. Stuosti bārnim par Latgolū*. [Book with games for more informal learning about Latgalian language and culture; intended age group 6-12]

A full list of available teaching aids is given in my report.

# Teaching material: What is lacking? A wish list

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- teaching aids directed to teenagers;  
[teenagers and young adults are known to have a crucial role in language attitudes]
- materials that show Latgalian in contexts other than regional cultural history;  
[showing that Latgalian is a modern, living language, not a museum piece]
- audio and video material designed for language learning;
- teaching aids with Latgalian as language of instruction for subjects other than Regional studies;
- a communicative approach to grammar.

# How can more materials be produced and published, given restricted personal and financial resources?

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- using modern technology and online tools for the production of materials
- using websites for the distribution of materials
- teachers share materials they produced for their classes
- pupils produce their own materials and learn by exploring (e.g. making dictionaries, flash cards, quizzes)
- getting educationalists together with people from other spheres (writers, actors, journalists, scientists, various professionals)
- thinking out of the box, being creative and confident!

# Example for the use of an online tool: Livonian vocabulary in Memrise

https://www.memrise.com/course/2013932/libi 67% ... Suchen

**MEMRISE** Home Courses Groups [Subscribe](#)

Courses > Languages > Other > Other Language

**Lībiešu valoda - Līvō kēļ**

Vārdnīca radīta lībiešu bērnu un jauniešu radošajā vasaras skolā Mierlinkizt, izmantojot bērnu zīmējumus kā attēlus un "memus", kā arī viņu ierunātās vārdu izrunas.

Created by **ReinisZumbergs**

[Share](#) [Tweet](#)

[Levels \(10\)](#) ⚡ Difficult words

97 / 101 words learned (0 in long term memory) 0 ignored

[Options](#) ⚡ 0 🔊 🔄 [Review \(97\)](#) [Learn](#)

1

Lietvārdi - Attēli

2

Lietvārdi - 2

3

Skaitļa vārdi

4

Īpašības vārdi

5

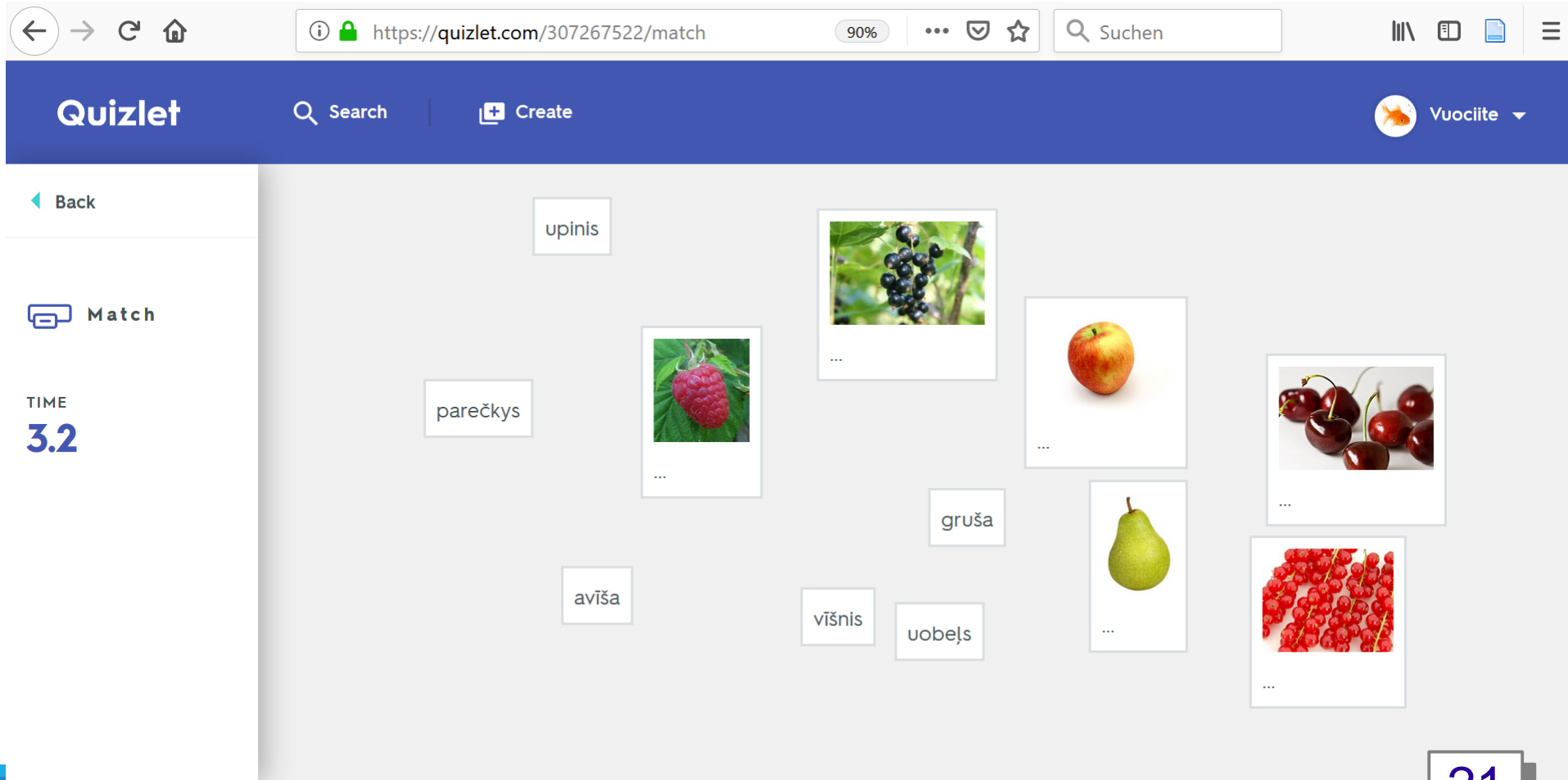
Darbības vārdi

**Leaderboard**

Week Month **All Time**

1.		piilaans	134,749
2.		zaiglna74	123,715
3.		srolanh	82,623
4.		katrinaskuj	82,338
5.		Martins_ta	77,723
6.		Linards_Lie	64,130

# Latgalian vocabulary learning game made at [quizlet.com](https://quizlet.com)



# Not all online tools can be used for Latgalian (or Latvian)... we need adaptations or our own tools!

← → ↺ 🏠 <https://www.clickschool.co.uk/cloze/?clozeId=3991> 📄 ⋮ 📌 ☆ 🔍 Suchen 📁 📄 ☰

puorb?deja

izlaide

?sakl?dze

paruodeja

puorsakristeja

suoce

auga

atkuortova

skr?ja

izb?ga

n?sabeida

## Latgalian verbs in past tense

Fill in the gaps by given verbs

V?nu reizi cyrks  napalelu mierka?eiti. V?tu jim  aiz pogosta s?tys iz teiruma. Beja sv?td?ne. Pi uorsta ambulancis  kuplys k?ks. Voi nu mierka?eits pats , voi j?  paskraideit, a jis  k?k? i  v?rt?s iz garom ?m?šajim bazneicuonim. V?na nu vecineišu, kura nikod dzeiv? nabeja ni redziejuse mierka?a, ni dzierdiejuse par taidim ?raudzeja naparost? zviere?u,  i .

Mierka?eits  juos kusteibys, v?? miedeidam?s. Jis tai j? , ka nabadzeite, kristeidamuos bez puortraukuma,  da bazneicys i buola kai papeirs nu bai?u : "Laikam asmu c?š lela griecineica, ka D?vs ma?  valnu!"

(Sandra ?dre, A 12, piec Jan?nys p?raksteituo)

Exercise created by Vuociite.  
Generated by [www.clickschool.co.uk/v1.1-beta](https://www.clickschool.co.uk/v1.1-beta)

3

2

13:11

21%

🖨

⌂

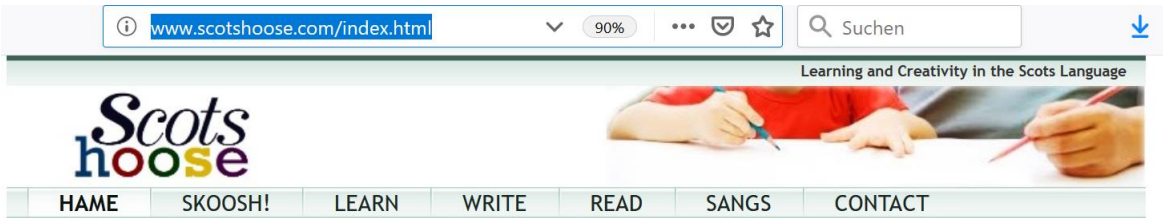
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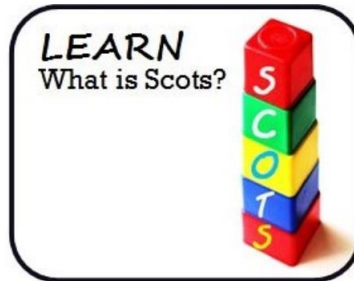
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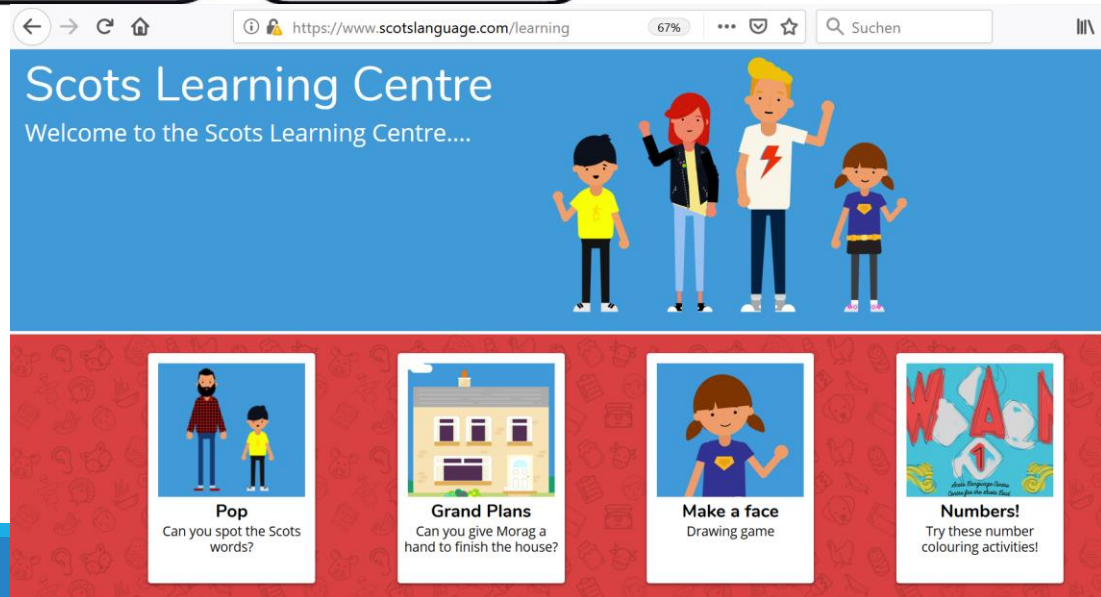
*The Scots language has a new hame. Weelcume tae the Scots Hoose.*

Scots Hoose is a free online resource for children, young folk and new Scots writers tae inspire and support creativity in the Scots language

Learn mair about the language. Get guid at writing in it. Find oot what's good to read and sing in Scots. And maybe you'll get your poem or story published in the Scots Hoose webzine. Remember, it's a Skoosh!



Scots:  
several  
official  
websites  
with  
materials  
and ideas





SCOTSLANGUAGE Education

	HAME	INTRODUCING SCOTS	DIALECTS OF SCOTS	SCOTS AND LITERACY		
	SCOTS FOR ACTIVE SCHOOLS		ROBERT BURNS	A GUID LISTEN	SCOTS HOOSE	ITCHY COO
	Scots learning activities		Active Scots vocabulary	Talking about Scots	Sharing Scots words	
	Texting in Scots	Scots signs	Supporting practice in local authorities			



## Scots for active schools

## Scots learning activities

Discover how some teachers are incorporating Scots language learning as part of their Active Schools programme.

## Active Scots vocabulary

Some innovative ways of teaching Scots vocabulary. Take familiar rhymes, songs and games and try them out in Scots.

## Talking about Scots

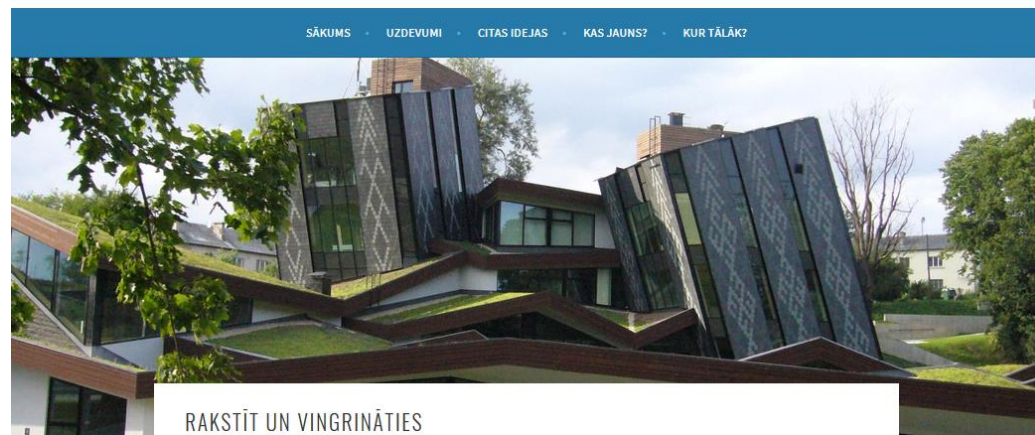
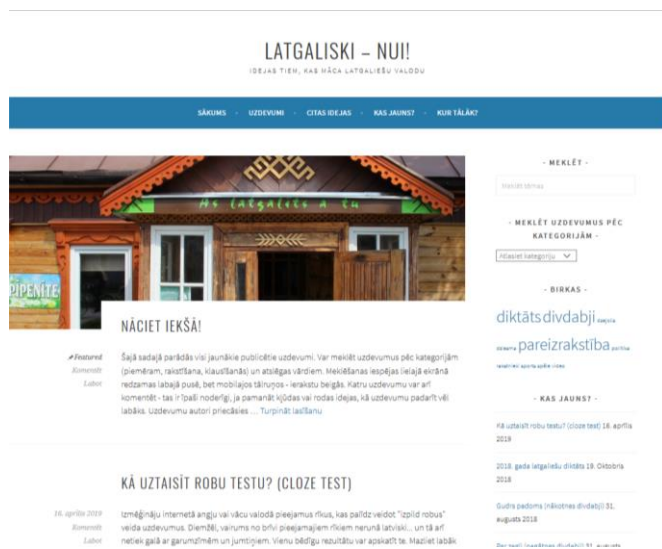
Scotland is a multilingual country and Scots has an important place alongside all our country's languages.

## Sharing Scots words

Whether you live or teach in urban or rural Scotland, people have their own store of Scots words which they are usually only too glad to share.



# Latgalian: Itgnui.com (a humble beginning)



## RAKSTĪT UN VINGRINĀTIES

Šeit pieejami dažādi uzdevumi latgalešu rakstu valodas apguvei. Kā pareizi rakstīt, ievērojot pareizrakstības noteikumus? Vingrināties latgalešu vārdu un vārduformu rakstībā, apgūstam jaunus vārdus vai nostiprinām tos, kurus jau zinām. Pārrunājam, kāpēc un kādās situācijās latgalešu rakstu valoda un tās pareizrakstība ir svarīga.

### Runāt par rakstību un aplūkot piemērus

- Kādēļ vajag latgalešu rakstu valodu? Spēle
- "Žārei galj" (žārej gali): Rakstības normas un brīvība
- Mōte vai muote, vuškas vai vuškyšs?

### Vingrinājumi, spēlītes

# Platform COLINGUA created within the CoLing project



CoLing project ▼

Labā prakse ▼

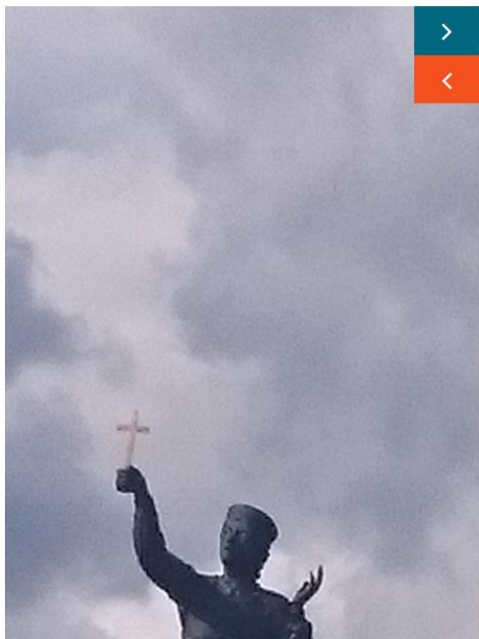
Mācību materiāli

Saistītie projekti

Veiksmes stāsti

Saziņai

Latviešu



TEACHING MATERIALS

## Latgalian

Diemžēl šis ieraksts ir pieejams tikai %LANG;, un %.



# Selected problem no. 3

## The inner diversity of Latgalian

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How can we produce teaching materials when the language is not completely standardized?

Elementary questions of grammar have not been normed, e.g.:

- dative of 'we' – *mums* or *myusim*?
- 'is not' – *nav*, *nava*, *navā*, *navaida*?

Or there is a norm, but many active speakers use different forms:

- 'we can' – *mes varim* or *mes varam*?
- *cepaṃ gaļu* or *gali*? *Rēzeknē* or *Rēzeknī*?

Lexical variation leads to heated discussion about good, correct words (*dvors* or *sāta*? *da* or *leidz*? *maut* or *peļdēt*?)

# Is standardization necessary? Yes, but...

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- We cannot wait until everything has been standardized – the language may die out in the meantime!
- Focussing on norms and correctness may discourage young people from using the language and make fluent elder speakers unsure of their competence.
- Regional variation (dialects) makes Latgalian richer; the same may be true for other types of variation, if accepted.
- Many questions may not be ready for selecting one normative variant, at least not with a democratic approach.
- Much more research on the actual usage of Latgalian as well as on the users' attitudes towards variation is needed.

# Resources needed for research and material development

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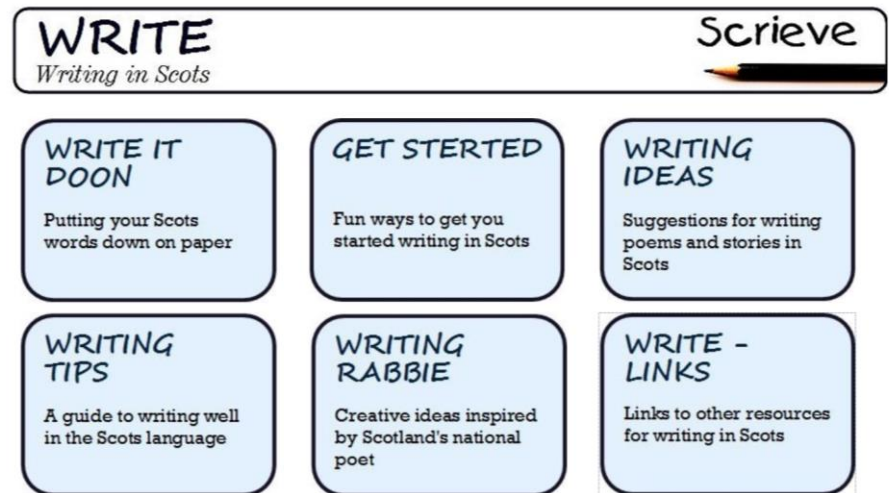
- ❖ A comprehensive dictionary listing Latgalian words with inflectional forms, synonyms, most important variants and recommendations for use. Should be available online (such as *tezaurs.lv*).
- ❖ A better, bigger electronic corpus of modern written Latgalian (MuLa-1 is good, but not enough).
- ❖ A database or corpus of spoken varieties of Latgalian.

# Scots in education: a relaxed attitude towards norms

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«Anyone can write in the Scots language. You just need two things: words and confidence.»

«Whatever you choose to do, remember to have fun writing in the Mither Tongue.»



<http://www.scotshoose.com/write.html>



**Paldies par uzmanību!**  
**Paļdis par viereibu!**

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Homepage

[www.naunicol-e.home.amu.edu.pl](http://www.naunicol-e.home.amu.edu.pl)