

## Favourite Words – Transcript

LAURA SPENCE

My favourite of all the words is a word that my Granny used to use, we assumed it was a made-up word. It was only recently I discovered the proper origin of this word. If we had asked my Scottish Granny what's for lunch, she would have rooted about in the fridge, she would have hoked about and found an egg and found a bit of cheese and found some milk and she'd have said, Kickshaws. What on earth is kickshaws? I assumed it was just one of my Granny's funny words. But much, much later, this is just a few years ago, I was reading the poetry of Robert Ferguson, who was a predecessor of Robert Burns in Scotland, one of Burns' great heroes is his literary big brother, and came across the word Kickshaws in the very context of something to eat. And it turns out that actually it goes right back historically to the old alliance between France and Scotland and the French word for something is *quelle que chose*, and when the Scots got *quelle que chose* and pronounced it in their Scottish accent, they got kickshaws. So, kickshaws is a word that our family uses all the time. If you are rummaging round to see what you are going to throw together for lunch and there's nothing very inspiring in the fridge, you'll be eating kickshaws.

IVAN HERBISON

There isn't really any translation for that Ulster- Scots word *Thran*. It speaks of a whole culture and attitude. It doesn't just mean awkward. There is no other word to substitute for it. Of course, it's a, it derives from Scots and it also derives from an old English word which means to twist, so I suppose twisted would be the best translation there is. But in terms of attitude, *thran* is the only word that quite characterises that.

Mícheál Ó Mainnín

IRISH

Well I think Phrases which are associated with Love and are particularly interesting in Irish. I've often been asked about the English phrase "I love You", and how it would be said in Irish and does it translate directly at all. If you were in Donegal and you hear the Donegal community speak, a mother or father speaking to a child perhaps you'd hear certain things such as "croi isteach for Mammy 'heart into 'Mammy or Daddy. And of course, 'croi is the Irish Word for 'heart' and 'heart into Daddy' there is something very personal and gentle about it and I enjoy that as turn of phrase

JOHN ERSKINE

The Strone one I like, because my great aunt used to do that, they were, they'd this very empty kitchen, and yet suddenly this wealth of food appeared from apparently nowhere, and there was always tea, there was always tea. And, as I said, they would say to my father, now, a wee strone of tea, David?

Róise Ní Bhaoill

The word meitheal came to me, Which means to cooperate and work together in the community to get things done. In the past, if someone was ill or there was a widow in the community, the men would come together and they'd cut the turf for them.

ANNE SMYTH

Well, my father in law was a dialect speaker, although he had travelled round the world a bit to do with his job, but he still sort of retained a good vocabulary of Ulster dialect. And one of his favourites was Clanjamfrey. And I had the whole family, a dozen of them, for lunch on Sunday, it was absolute bedlam and I just looked around and I thought: Grandpa would be saying, what a Clanjamfrey, the whole rabble, the whole mixture, mixture and noise, you know. It's such an expressive one that, I just, I just love that bit of it.

The other ones are things that I would remember a lot from my Scottish childhood funnily enough, and things like Tholin'. You know, we put up with things and Tholin' is a very, very old way of expressing that. I think it's very expressive, but it is actually an old English one. That is a very, very early English expression.

CAROLINE MACAFEE

Lurgan Spade is one that sticks in my mind, because of course there's a place called Lurgan, and why shouldn't there be a type of spade named after Lurgan? But the museum had extensively consulted manufacturers of spades and nobody knew of a Lurgan spade, it's actually Irish, Lurgan spade. It's the shaft of a spade. So, if somebody has a face like a Lurgan spade, they have a long face.