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British Celtic influence on English phonology

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Citation

Laker, S. (2010, September 23). *British Celtic influence on English phonology*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/15976>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Stellingen
behorende bij het proefschrift
British Celtic Influence on English Phonology
van
Stephen Laker

1. The results of this dissertation support the general observation that more suspected Brittonic influences on English appear in Middle English sources than in Old English sources.
2. More Brittonic phonological influence on English is found in the North than in the South.
3. Surprisingly little evidence of Brittonic phonological influence is found in the South West of England. Since there is evidence that there was substantial contact in this area, we must conclude that the contact situation in the South West was quite different from that of northern England and southern Scotland.
4. The English traditional dialect border around the Humber almost certainly dates back to the Old English period and quite likely has pre-Anglo-Saxon roots.
5. It is usually possible to obtain more precise details about the phonetics of consonants than vowels in ancient languages. For this reason, it is often easier to make a convincing case for one language influencing another language's consonant system than its vocalic system.
6. Popular linguists such as Trudgill and McWhorter now support the notion that there was Celtic influence on English. For this reason, mainstream books on the history of English will contain considerably more discussion of possible Celtic influences on English in the future.
7. It is highly unlikely that the Romano-Celtic population was wiped out when the Anglo-Saxons arrived, because no archaeological evidence has been found to support such a scenario.
8. A theory that keeps coming back to haunt and awaken the interest of future linguists, especially good ones, has potential. The theory of Semitic influence on Insular Celtic is a good example of this.
9. Many Flemish speakers have had the unpleasant experience of Netherlandic Dutch speakers switching to English when talking to them. The reverse does not seem to happen.