

**RESPONSE TO PROF. DR. RAZVAN SAFTOIU'S EVALUATION**  
**of Levente Nagy's PhD Dissertation**  
**Contemporary Gaelic Language Revival Efforts in the**  
**English-Speaking World**

Dear Prof. Dr. Saftoiu,

Thank you very much for your detailed, insightful, and encouraging evaluation of my dissertation. I am grateful for your careful engagement with the study's historical grounding, theoretical framing, and empirical design, as well as for your constructive suggestions regarding comparative scope, digital communication, methodological transparency, policy implications, and narrative clarity. Your comments provide valuable guidance both for the final refinement of the dissertation and for its subsequent development into publishable research.

**On the digital dimension and research scope**

I am very grateful for your observation, with which I fully agree that digital and online communication plays an increasingly significant role in contemporary language revitalization. In the present dissertation, however, systematic analysis of digital language use was intentionally kept outside the primary scope of investigation. This decision was motivated by the need to maintain methodological coherence and comparability across the main empirical datasets, which focus on reported competence, attitudes, and usage patterns rather than interactional digital practices – this segment was intentionally kept outside the primary investigation, as the overall volume of online presence requires a dedicated, exclusively digital-focused research, which will be the goal of my next paper and research.

Nevertheless, the importance of digitally mediated domains is clearly acknowledged throughout the analysis as an emerging space of visibility and engagement. Building directly on the findings of the dissertation, a dedicated follow-up study is already in preparation, which will focus specifically on digital Irish-language practices. This forthcoming paper will employ targeted data collection and analytic procedures suitable for online environments, including platform-specific communities, participatory media, and interactional patterns. In this sense, the dissertation establishes the conceptual and empirical groundwork for a more systematic investigation of digital language use rather

than attempting to address this complex domain in a preliminary or methodologically uneven way.

### **On comparative perspective and generalizability**

I appreciate your suggestion to further broaden the comparative dimension beyond the Celtic context. In the dissertation, comparisons with Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, and Breton are used to contextualize Irish within closely related revitalization trajectories. I fully acknowledge that incorporating non-Celtic European cases, such as Basque or Catalan, would further strengthen generalizability. This comparative expansion represents a clear avenue for future work, particularly in relation to domain expansion and the activation of latent speakers across different policy regimes.

### **On methodological transparency and policy relevance**

Your remarks regarding methodological transparency and the articulation of policy recommendations are well taken. In the revised version, I will further clarify the analytic procedures used in the qualitative components and consider supplementary materials that enhance replicability. I will also consolidate the policy implications into a concise set of evidence-based recommendations, explicitly linked to latent speaker engagement, everyday use, and locally anchored language planning.

### **Concluding remarks**

Once again, thank you for your careful reading, your generous overall assessment, and your constructive suggestions. I greatly value your recognition of the dissertation's contribution and its potential for further development. I will incorporate your comments in the final revisions and pursue the digital and comparative extensions in subsequent publications building directly on this research.

Veszprém, 13/01/2026

Levente Nagy