

Chwedl y Llodrau (A Tale of the Trousers): Pluralia tantum and agreement in Welsh

Silva Nurmio -Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies

The Agreement Hierarchy (Corbett 2000, 2006) models and predicts the agreement behaviour of grammatical items whose form and semantic reference are at odds in terms of features such as number or gender ('hybrid controllers'). The most widely-studied example of hybrid controllers are nouns such as English *government*, *committee* etc. which can take singular or plural agreement (e.g. *the government has/have decided on a new plan...it/they will announce it tomorrow*). Welsh has a category of hybrid controllers of this type (e.g. *byddin* 'army'), and also two others: nouns denoting mass aggregates (e.g. *gwenith* 'wheat'), and pluralia tantum (e.g. *trowsus* 'trousers'). This talk will present an overview of these three categories, with a focus on pluralia tantum, suggesting that they are fascinating from the point of view of Welsh linguistics and the typology of pluralia tantum and agreement more generally.