

**Kiely, Tomas, 2001, *A Comparative Study of Student Experiences and Perceptions of Irish in a Mainstream School with that of Student Experiences and Perceptions of Irish in a Gaelcholaiste.***

## **ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION**

The author's study focuses on "A comparative Study of Student Experiences and Perceptions of Irish in A Mainstream School with that of Student Experiences and Perceptions in a *Gaelcholáiste*". The author uses a questionnaire to carry out detailed research work in his chosen topic. He chose two second level colleges, one being an all boys second level college - referred to throughout as the Mainstream School - the other a *Gaelcholáisie*. This term is used to apply to a school which operates through the medium of Irish. The *Gaelcholaiste* functions in accordance with the usual rules of the Department of Education and Science. Irish is the language of instruction here, and also the language of communication amongst teachers, children and management. It is worth noting that all children are welcome in the *Gaelcholdiste* regardless of their linguistic background.

A total of seventy students represented the total number of respondents. The trends, which emerged from the author's study, are clearly documented in chapter four. The detailed commentary aims to provide the reader and all teachers of Irish with a clear picture of what is actually occurring in Irish language classrooms in both colleges at Junior Cycle.

The overall findings have implications for the teaching of Junior Certificate Level Irish, within the study area. The findings provide a basis for future research in the area of Student Experiences and Perceptions of Irish.

Please note that the author has chosen to use the masculine form 'he' which may be interpreted as he or she in chapters one and two.