

Re: Orthography supporting sound changes?

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-01/msg01190.html>

- *From:* "Seán O'Leathlóbhair" <jwlawler@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 12 Jan 2006 02:25:27 -0800
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Colin Fine wrote:

> Seán O'Leathlóbhair wrote:

>> Peter T. Daniels wrote:

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>>> Aidan Kehoe wrote:

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>>>> So you switched the topic, without notice, from spelling pronunciation
>>>> to "language shift." They may look to you like the same thing, but they
>>>> most assuredly aren't.

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>>>> The topic was how spelling pronunciation interacts with sound changes. I
>>>> haven't seen anything ruling out language shifts between related dialects
>>>> and the changes of sound inherent in that as "sound changes" in the
>>>> specialised sense, and indeed the definitions I've seen leave room for such
>>>> an interpretation; please provide something ruling this out, if you have it.

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>>>> No. Scientists don't bother thinking up explanations for why every
>>>> imaginable contingency does not occur. You provide an example of it
>>>> happening, and we'll try to explain why it does.

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>>>> Depends on the science. Mathematicians frequently study why things
>>>> don't happen. A famous example being Fermat's Last Theorem. A huge
>>>> amount of effort has been expended over the years to prove that
>>>> something does not happen. Squaring the circle and trisecting angles
>>>> are other examples of a lot of effort spent on proving something
>>>> impossible.

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>>>> Umm. Maths is not a science (in any sense relevant to this discussion).
>>>> A mathematician's "does not occur" is qualitatively different from a
>>>> scientist's "does not occur".

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>>>> Colin

Whether maths is a sc