

## Re: Substitutes for English /T/ and /D/

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- *From:* Andrew Woode <[andrew\\_woode@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:andrew_woode@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 24 Jul 2007 10:59:49 -0700
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On 24 Jul, 00:11, "Brian M. Scott" <[b.sc...@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:b.sc...@xxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

On Sun, 22 Jul 2007 16:25:14 GMT, Richard Wordingham  
<[jrw0...@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jrw0...@xxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in  
<[news:KxLoi.2223\\$nm3.507@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:KxLoi.2223$nm3.507@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> in sci.lang:

[...]

The substitutions of [f] for [T] and [v] for non-initial [D] are frequent in all of England except the far north. For example, Welsh *\_Caerdydd\_* has been borrowed as English *\_Cardiff\_*.

That would be a substitution of [f] for [D], not [T]. But it's not clear what happened here, because the etymology of the second element is uncertain. The name occurs as <Kairdiff> as early as 1106; other early forms include <Kardi> 1126, <Cairti> a.1150, <Kardid> a.1150, <Cardif> 1158-9, and <K(a)erdif> a.1196. Unfortunately, I know the provenance of only two of these: <Cardif> is from the Pipe Rolls, and <K(a)erdif> is from Giraldus Cambrensis (whom one might expect to know the Welsh name).

I've seen two etymologies offered. One derives the second element from the Latin personal name <Didius>; if it's correct, then the <f> forms show early substitution of [f] for [D], apparently in both Welsh and English. The other derives it from the name of the river Taff on which the place lies, via a genitive <Tyf>, lenited to <Dyf>; in this case the substitution is of [D] for [v].

Once <Tyf/dyf> was no longer recognised as coming from *\_<Taf/daf>*, which would have been pretty early in Welsh, there would have been scope for a folk-etymology substitute; *\_dydd\_* 'day' makes very little sense in this sort of placename but is at least a familiar word.

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(Presumably this is oversimplified and ought to be talking about the reflex of a British genitive.) Either is consistent with the forms <Kardi> and <Cairti>, as there was a tendency to drop final [D] and [v].

Brian