

Information Creation as a Process

Cruthú Eolais mar Phróiseas

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Aim: Understanding Information Literacy

Cuspóir: Ag Tuigbheáil Litearthacht Eolais

- Critical thinking is the hallmark and outcome of higher education wherein one learns to analyse the information available to them.
- This allows students to increase their understanding of information literacy through the use of "cognitive processes" to help students develop their own independent thoughts and ideas and add to the students' ability to further their own academic study which in turn should create a better chance for career success.

Grace O'Malley



Grace O'Malley, (above) Sculptor Michael Cooper

Information Creation as a Process

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What does this mean?

- Information is produced to send messages to those receiving the information. Researching that information is essential to ensure the message is directly delivered.

Next, we must determine what this means in the context of our chosen text.

- As a group, we chose Pádraig Mac Piarais' version of "Óró 'Sé Do Bheatha 'Bhaile" as our basis for understanding 'Information Creation as a Process'.
- Mac Piarais' version is an adaptation of the original Jacobite song written at the time of Bonnie Prince Charles and the third Jacobite rising of the late 1700s.
- There was an attempt to gain home rule in Ireland. Many wished for full independence for Ireland. It's lyrics inspired 1916 Easter Rising.
- The song contains political references to nationalist rhetoric, Gráinne Ní Mháille. She was a figure of resistance to British rule in Ireland having met Queen Elizabeth I of Britain, and refused her offer of vassalhood as a minor queen of the west Irish coast.



Deconstructing a text

Díchruthú téacs

The idea of a textual deconstruction arises from a philosophical movement and theory of literary criticism that questions the traditional assumptions that are given about certainty, identity, and truth; that is that it asserts that words can only refer to other words; and attempts to demonstrate how statements about any text subvert their own meanings.

In the context of our chosen text, this means that we have broken down the adaptation to determine the purpose of the song.

- By deconstructing the text (the song), the current version has been adapted to give understanding to the historical, social and political context.
- Gráinne Ní Mháille and her exploits, are a nationalistic idea which provide a narrative for self-determination.
- Mac Piarais, after researching the background of the song, used this as his "An Dord Féinne", or "Call of the Fighters".
- Deconstructing the text included looking at the lyrics, their meaning, the structure, the historical context and even the author, Pádraig Mac Piarais, himself.

Relevant academic literature relating to information literacy

Litríocht acadúil cuí bainteach le litearthacht eolais

To understand and appreciate the message of the song, the lyrics must be deconstructed and examined.

- Pádraig Mac Piarais' current version of the song was adapted from the original Jacobite version which originally included Bonnie Prince Charles as its figurehead.
- Mac Piarais disliked this as he believed that it would not serve as a great inspiration for Irish rebels he wanted to encourage them to fight for their own country. He later removed Charles from his version and featured Gráinne Ní Mháille.
- Ní Mháille was a symbol for Ireland and her refusal to surrender to oppressors. She had a very "commanding presence, capable sea-captain and a ruler of men" (Maguire, 1943).
- Ní Mháille is a powerful figure in Irish history and is a symbol of Ireland's refusal to surrender to foreign powers. The song welcomes her home and serves as an invitation to Irishmen to come home and fight on behalf of their native country.



- She was in life a force to be reckoned with, and after her death she was canonised into folklore and she is remembered in these folk songs allowing her legend to live on.
- In our time she is still celebrated in theatre, film and popular culture giving inspiration to the many who know her name.

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