Bun as Bree

Christopher Lewin

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A series of short articles on Manx Gaelic grammar, idiom, vocabulary and pronunciation.

Numbers

Numbers in Manx can be tricky, so here are some notes on some of the details.

Lenition after *un* and *daa*:

Daa causes normal lenition. *Un* does not lenite dentals (t, çh, d, j, s), but unlike the definite article *yn*, it does not change *s* to *t*. *Un theihll*, for example, is therefore an error; it should be *un seihll*.

cur 'syn **un s**aagh ad - put them in one vessel (Ezekiel 4:9)

'Syn **un t**hie vees eh er ny ee - In one house shall it be eaten (Exodus 12:46)

Un **Chi**arn, **un ch**redjue, **un v**ashtey - One Lord, one faith, one baptism (Ephesians 4:5)

As hrog ooilley'n pobble myr **un d**ooinney - And all the people arose as one man (Judges 20:8)

Dy vel **un J**ee ayn - That there is one God (Coyrle Sodjeh p. 60)

Occasionally (normal) lenition of *s* is found:

veih **un h**eeloghe gys sheeloghe elley - from one generation to another (Ps. 72:5)

Multiples of twenty:

Until 59, the smaller number comes before the twenty:

unnane as feed - twenty-one
jeih as feed - thirty
daeed - forty
jeih as daeed - fifty
nuy-jeig as daeed - fifty-nine

From 60 to 199, the twenty comes first:

three feed as kiare - sixty-four
three feed as jeih - seventy
kiare feed as jeih - ninety
shey feed as queig-jeig - one hundred and thirty-five
nuy feed as nuy-jeig - one hundred and ninety-nine

bee curtanyn jeh **jeih cubityn as daeed** - shall be hangings of fifty cubits (Exodus 27:12)

three-feed bleïn as jeih - seventy years (Daniel 9:2)

Myr shoh hooar Joseph baase, as va e eash **queig-feed as jeih bleeaney** - So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old (Genesis 50:26)

As va Jared **hoght feed as daa vleïn** dy eash, as va echey Enoch - And Jared lived an hundred sixty and two years, and he begat Enoch (Genesis 5:18)

As va Lamech **nuy feed bleïn as jees** dy eash - And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years (Genesis 5:28)

Note that the system of twenties can (optionally) go up to 199 with *nuy feed* 'nine twenties' for 180, though *keead* is more common for 'one hundred' itself. Note also that with the numbers 60+ the noun can follow the twenty element (in which case it is singular) or the smaller element (in which case it is plural, unless the small number is *un* or *daa*). Nouns are singular in form when directly following *un*, *daa*, *feed*, *keead* and *thousane*, and plural with all other numbers.

21, 41 etc.:

When expressing saying 21, 41 and so on with a noun, *un* may be left out, i.e. *laa as feed* 'twenty-one days' instead of *un laa as feed*:

Agh ren prince reeriaght Phersia shassoo m'oï, **laa as feed** - But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days (Daniel 10:13)

Va Zedekiah **bleïn as feed** dy eash tra ghow eh toshiaght dy reill - Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign (2 Kings 24:18)

As **bleïn as da-eed** ren eh reill ayns Jerusalem - And forty and one years reigned he in Jerusalem (1 Kings 15:10)

Ghaa:

The lenited form of *daa* is used:

As would be expected after lenition triggers such as possessives:

e ghaa ven - his two wives (1 Samuel 13:18)

In *ghaa-yeig* when it stands alone without a noun, even when preceded by the article:

Eisht hrog ad orroo, as hie ad harrish, **ghaa yeig** jeh Benjamin, v'er cheu Ish-bosheth mac Saul, as **ghaa yeig** jeh deiney Ghavid - Then there arose and went over by number twelve of Benjamin, which pertained to Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David (2 Samuel 2:15)

Yn ghaa-yeig shoh hug Yeesey magh - These twelve Jesus sent forth (Matthew 10:5)

(With nouns, the non-lenited form *daa X yeig* or *daa X jeig* is found:)

hoie eh sheese marish **yn daa ostyl yeig** - he sat down with the twelve (Matthew 26:20)

Gow-jee **daa ghooinney jeig** veih mastey yn pobble - Take you twelve men out of the people (Joshua 4:2)

In other situations when *ghaa* stands alone without a directly following noun, namely when it is conjoined with other numbers by *ny* 'or', e.g. *unnane ny ghaa* 'one or two', *ghaa ny three* 'two or three', and in the expression *ghaa wheesh* 'twice as much':

Ta creenaght ny share na greïnyn-caggee: agh ta un drogh-yantagh cur naardey saase mie **ny ghaa** [a good way or two] - Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good (Ecclesiastes 9:18)

Son raad ta **ghaa ny three** er nyn jaglym cooidjagh ayns m'ennym's, shen y raad ta mish nyn mastey - For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20)

As ghow ny deiney yn gioot shen, as ghow ad **ghaa wheesh** dy argid ayns nyn laue - And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand (Genesis 43:15)

myrgeddin hug y Chiarn da Job **ghaa wheesh** as v'echey roïe - also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before (Job 42:10)

Since when two numbers are linked by *ny* the first is not directly followed by a noun but stands alone, it follows that these numbers are treated as nouns in themselves, and must be followed by *dy* plus a lenited plural noun:

Noi shanstyr ny jean plaiynt y ghoaill, agh kiongoyrt rish **ghaa ny three dy eanishyn** - Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses (1 Timothy 5:19)

lhig da mysh **ghaa ny three dy housaneyn dooinney** goll seose - let about two or three thousand men go up (Joshua 7:3)

va shin l[h]ieeney ny baskadyn gys ve mean oie as cha row aynjee tra shen agh **gha[a] ny three dy veishyn** - we were filling the baskets until it was midnight but at that time there were only two or three measures in her (Ned Beg 3)

As haink eh gy-kione, tra va Jehudi er lhaih **three ny kiare dy ghuilliagyn**, dy yiare yn ree eh lesh skynn-phenney - And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife (Jeremiah 36:23)

Ve son bleintyn [bleeantyn] ayns boayl ennagh ayns neryn [Nerin] raad va'n balley sn[i]essey **kair [kiare] ny queig dy ve[e]ilaghyn** jeh - He was for years in some place in Ireland where the nearest town was four or five miles off (Ned Beg 12)

Lhisagh oo v'er woalley **queig ny shey dy cheayrtyn** - Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times (2 Kings 13:19)

This *dy* appears in other situations where the numeral cannot be directly followed by the noun, as with collective nouns like *cloan* and *sleih*:

T'ee-ish t'er n'ymmyrkey **shiaght dy chloan** raad y vaaish - She that hath borne seven [children] languisheth (Jeremiah 15:9)

As haink ad huggey, cur lhieu fer va seaghnit lesh y chingys-craaee, v'er ny hroggal stiagh liorish **kiare dy leih** - And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of [i.e. by] four [people] (Mark 2:3)

With high numbers, the noun can optionally come at the end preceded by *dy*:

thousane daa cheead as kiare-feed as jeih **dy laghyn** - a thousand two hundred and ninety days (Daniel 12:11)

As va ooilley mec Pherez, va cummal ec Jerusalem, kiare cheead three-feed as hoght **dy gheiney** dunnal - All the sons of Perez that dwelt at Jerusalem were four hundred threescore and eight valiant men (Nehemiah 11:6)

Ny feedyn, ny thousaneyn:

When saying 'thousands', 'hundreds', 'scores' etc., without specifying the exact number, Gaelic puts the definite article in front of the noun:

ta **ny thusanyn [thousaneyn]** feddin [feddyn] baase voish laanid beaghey, neu-heeltys, as beggan lheill - thousands die from fullness of living, insobriety, and inactivity (*Mona's Herald*, 5 Jan. 1841, p. 3)

there was **ne [ny] feedyn** more comes - scores (*Mona's Herald*, 20 June 1835, p. 5. — this piece is in dialect English interspersed with Manx)

Singular and plural with *daa*:

The numeral *daa* is peculiar in that some of the elements that go with it in a noun phrase are singular and others plural, as the following table elucidates:

article	numeral	noun	adjective
SINGULAR	daa	SINGULAR	PLURAL
yn	daa	ghooinney	aegey
'the two young men'			

Examples:

daa ghooinney aegey - two young men (2 Kings 5:22)
daa feeaïh aegey - two young roes (Song of Solomon 4:5)
yn daa ghooinney - the two men (Joshua 2:4)
ec kione y daa raad - at the head of the two ways (Ezekiel 21:21)

Singular article and plural adjective are also found with collective nouns such as *sleih*, *cloan* and *mooinjer*. Note that normal lenition applies if the nouns are feminine:

yn vooinjer veggey - the little ones (Judges 18:21)
yn vooinjer hingey - the sick [people] (Mark 6:56)
yn chloan veggey eck - her little ones [children] (Jeremiah 48:4)
'n chloan aegey - the young children (Psalm 127:5)
yn sleih chingey - the sick [people] (Luke 9:10)
nyn sleih-mooinjerey boghtey - their poor relatives (Wilson's sermons p. 103)
yn maase breckey - the speckled cattle (Genesis 31:8)
yn ollagh - the cattle (Judges 18:21)
yn chenndeeaght - the elders (Joel 1:14), also, the aged, the old, the ancients
yn chanstyr - the elders (1 Kings 21:11), the aged (Job 29:8)
yn sluight ayd's - thy seed [descendents, posterity, progeny] (Genesis 13:16)
yn tannys - the husbandmen [tenant farmers, tenantry] (Matthew 21:35)

Singular nouns after other numbers:

Nouns expressing time and quantity may remain singular after numbers other that *un*, *daa*, *feed*, *keead* and *thousane*. However, this is optional:

Bee eshyn vennys rish corp marroo dooinney erbee, neu-ghlen **shiaght laa** - He that toucheth the dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days (Numbers 19:11)

Cha nee un laa, ny daa laa, ny **queig laa**, chamoo **jeih laa**, ny feed laa nee shiu gee - Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days (Numbers 11:19)

Q. Caid va Creest marroo? A. **Three laa** - Q. How long was Christ dead? A. Three days (Aght Giare p. 12)

ta mee er vakin ad creck ad son **she[y] punt** y keead - I have seen them selling them for six pounds a hundred (Ned Beg 4)

But: As lurg da v'er ny ghlenney, nee ad coontey dasyn **shiaght laghyn** - And after he is cleansed, they shall reckon unto him seven days (Ezekiel 44:26)

Son myr va Jonas **three laghyn** as **three oieghyn** ayns bolg y whale: myr shen bee Mac y dooinney **three laghyn** as **three oieghyn** ayns cree yn thallooin - For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matthew 12:40)

Ordinals:

'Eleventh' is expressed by *yn un…jeig/yeig*, not **yn chied…jeig/yeig* (cf. Scottish Gaelic *an t-aonamh latha deug* etc.). This also applies to higher numbers containing 11, e.g. 31st, 51st:

yn un laa jeig - the eleventh day (Numbers 7:72)
yn un vleïn jeig - the eleventh year (Ezekiel 31:1)
'syn un vee yeig - in the eleventh month (Deuteronomy 1:3)
'Syn un vleïn jeig as feed - In the thirty and first year (1 Kings 16:23)

However, other ordinal numbers containing 1, such as 21st, 41st, use *chied*:

Yn chied lot as feed - The one and twentieth [lot] (1 Chronicles 25:28)

Though *un* may be used also:

ayns yn un vleïn as da-eed - in the one and fortieth year (2 Chronicles 16:13)
ec yn feedoo as un vierse as feed - at the twentieth and twenty-first verse (Wilson's sermons p. 146)

Quantifiers:

Note, only when plural would be otherwise expected; some of these words can also be used with singulars, uncount and collective nouns. For example, ymmodee is normally used with a plural noun, but with *sleih* it may be (but is not always) followed by *dy leih*.

Singular: shimmey, whilleen, caghlaaghyn [*various, different*], un, daa, feed, keead, thousane

Plural: ymmodee, mooarane, lane, niart, ram, monney, rour, tooilley, ooilley, *all other numbers*

'dy': paart, kuse, y bunnys [*most*], y chooid smoo, shiartanse, veg*, reggyryn, ny shlee, ny smoo, ny sloo, arragh, beggan, cha beg [*so little*], caghlaaghyn

* *veg* is originally followed by *dy*, which is then shortened to *y*, which is confused with the definite article; in classical Manx this has become regular, and *veg* is generally found with following *yn*, *y*, or *ny*. By Late Manx *dy* is used once again by analogy with other quantifiers:

cha jean shiu **veg yn obbyr** er: she doonaght y Chiarn eh ayns ooilley nyn gummallyn - ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings (Leviticus 23:3)

cha jean shiu lostey **veg y soorit**, ny **veg y vill**, ayns oural erbee gys y Chiarn jeant lesh aile - ye shall burn no leaven, nor any honey, in any offering of the Lord made by fire (Leviticus 2:11)

cha vel ayd **veg ny saaseyn** dy lheihys - thou hast no healing medicines (Jeremiah 30:13)

With *dy* in Late Manx:

as lurg tammylt dy cra [hraa] ve eignyt [eginit] dy roie ersooyl voish ny shellanyn fego[o]ish gheddyn [geddyn] **veg dy vill** - and after a while he was forced to run away from the bees without getting any honey (Ned Beg 23)

Ren shin chur [cur] ayns yn vaarney foddey voish dy chooilley unnane coointey [coontey] nagh row **veg dy scaddan** ayns shen - We cast in the gap far from everyone thinking that there weren't any herring there (Ned Beg 3)

vel **veg dy yoar[r]eeyn** mooie - are there any foreigners out (Ned Beg 21)

<u>Proverb of the Month:</u>

Laa'l Paul ghorrinagh gheayee
Genney er y theihll as baase mooar sleih,
Laa'l Paul aalin as glen,
Palçhey er y theihll dy arroo as meinn.

- Paul's day stormy and windy,
Famine in the world, and great death of mankind,
Paul's Day fair and clear,
Plenty of corn and meal in the world.

St Paul's day is 25th January.

(Cregeen)