

Dipyn o Gymraeg? A bit of Welsh? Bilingualism and Automatic Translation in Clinical Practice Assessment Documentation?

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1. National and Local Policy

Cymraeg must be treated on an equal footing with English, with moves towards 'Cymraeg yn gyntaf'. Students must notify the University six weeks ahead of using Cymraeg in a written assignment.

2. Automatic Translation is Mainstreaming

Automatic/digital translation has become mainstream (email, social media) and this may promise more opportunities to use Cymraeg in formal settings, such as clinical practice assessments. In 2020, Welsh Government funds supported development to incorporate automatic translation into our Nursing and Diagnostic Radiography MyProgress platform.

3. Can YOUR Cymraeg Clear the 'High Bar' of use in FORMAL Settings....?

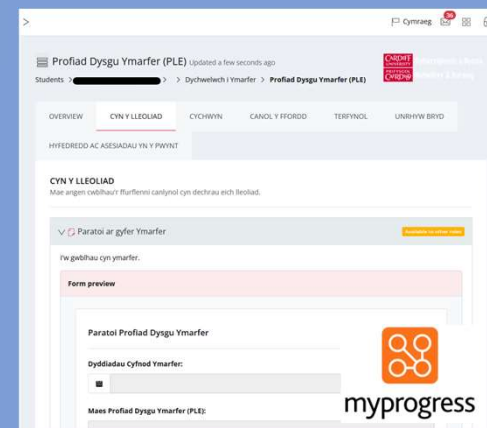
Professional conversations are in English, biases future language choice (yn Ne Cymru). Opportunities for Cymraeg in professional settings may be limited to verbal, often phatic, exchanges. Documentation is predominantly and even structurally monoglot (e.g., Welsh Nursing Care Record) despite 'Caring In Welsh' App. Paucity of professional terminology in existence or use, despite 'Caring In Welsh' App. Achieving and maintaining bilingual assessment documentation is an overhead with insufficient support or established/'business as usual' processes. The 'bilingual imperative' may hold up progress towards use of Cymraeg permeating formal parts of society because the acceptable norm or calibre of Cymraeg expected is high?

Will I try a bit of Cymraeg today...?



4. Can Auto-translation in Clinical Practice Assessment Help?

Objective/descriptive language in responses may be more resilient to vagaries of automatic translation, compared with more prosaic assessment types (e.g., extended written prose). Professional terminology dominated by English/Latin terms with no equivalent in Cymraeg, and therefore less scope for mistranslation.



Built in (not bolt-on) auto-translation adds legitimacy to use of Cymraeg. Granular response auto-translation allows those lacking confidence with Cymraeg to attempt individual responses in Cymraeg. Lessens the common and artificial binary 'all or nothing' stricture hampering tentative Cymraeg use.

5. Students are keen and yet also not keen

Anecdotally, students are concerned that they could be judged based on automatically translated versions of their responses. Robust evidence is needed covering Welsh speakers of all levels.