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

Lesser-known prepositions:

A look at some prepositions that are not mentioned in most Manx course books, but which are nonetheless useful.

er-dy - since

Er-dy is the standard equivalent of ‘since’ + NOUN in Classical Manx. It is followed by lenition:

Agh **er-dy** hoshiaght y theihll, chroo Jee ad fyrrynagh as bwoirrynagh - But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female (Mark 10:6)

As **er-dy** laghyn Ean Bashtey derrey nish, ta sleih chionney stiagh gys reeriaght niau, as t’adsyn ta cheet lesh jeeanid cosney stiagh ayn - And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force (Matthew 11:12)

Uniquely among prepositions it is attached to the definite article without an apostrophe¹, yielding *er-dyn* ‘since the’:

Er-dyn laa haink nyn ayraghyn magh ass cheer Egypt gys y laa jiu - Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day (Jeremiah 7:25)

Some confusion seems to have set in though, with *er-dyn* sometimes being used for the indefinite and the plural:

er-dyn toshiaght y theihll - since the beginning of the world (Isaiah 64:4)

er dyn chenn earishyn - of ancient times (2 Kings 19:25)

Neayr or *neayr’s* (originally from Gaelic *an uair*, used in Irish and Scottish for relative ‘when’) may be pressed into service as a preposition equivalent to *er-dy*.

¹ Though note the spelling in **er d’yn** *chroo gys cheet Chreest* ‘from the creation to the coming of Christ’ (Wilson’s Sermons p. 136)

Neayr ny laghyn shen - Since those days (Haggai 2:16)
Neayr's y traa shoh nurree - Since this time last year (HLSM 2 p. 320)

But *er-dy* is still attested in Late Spoken Manx:

er-dy nurree - since last year (HLSM 2 p. 148)
er-dy y shiaghtin chaie (id.)

Er-dy occurs in two common idioms:

er-dy rieu - forever (past), 'since always'
er-dy henney - ago; since, since then

Examples of *er-dy rieu*:

er-yn-oyr dy bynney lesh y Chiarn Israel **er dy rieu**, shen-y-fa ren eh ree jeed's - because the Lord loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king (1 Kings 10:9)

Ta dty ghoo's firrinagh **er-dy-rieu** - Thy word is true from everlasting (Psalm 119:160)

Note that *er-dy henney* has two distinct meanings. After a quantity of time, it means 'ago'. On its own it means 'since' (when English uses 'since' without anything following, that is, when it means 'since then, since that time').

Compare the following examples:

ago

since

Kiare laa er-dy-henney va mish my hrostey - Four days ago I was fasting (Acts 10:30)

As cha hrog phadeyr **er-dy-henney** ayns Israel gollrish Moses - And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses (Deuteronomy 34:10)

Va olbynagh [Albinagh] elley ayns shoh **blein er dy hinney** [henney] - There was another Scotsman here a year ago (Ned Beg 11)

va shen yn ch[i]ed cheayrt ren mee rie[a]u fakin dhiney [deiney] tuittym magh er booayrd batthey [er boayrd baatey], as cha ren mee rie[a]u fakin agh feer veg jeh **er dy henney** - that was the first time I ever saw men falling out on board ship, and I've only ever seen very little of it since (Ned Beg 3)

bleeantyn er dy henney - years ago (HLSM 2 p. 149)

cha row mee rieu ec yn boayl shen **er dy henney** - I've never been in that place since (HLSM 2 p. 149)

jeeragh er - opposite ("over against"), facing, in front of

This is common in the Bible, and appears to be the normal Manx equivalent of ‘opposite’. The Oxford English Dictionary gives the senses ‘adjacent to, facing, opposite’ for the phrase ‘over against’, and cites Mark 13:3 as an example.

As myr v’eh ny hoie er cronk ny Oliveyn, **jeeragh er** y chiamble, denee Peddyr as Jamys, as Ean, as Andreays jeh er-lheh And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately (Mark 13:3)

As y voalley va er cheu-mooie **jeeragh er** ny shamyryn, lesh yn chooyrt sodjey magh roish ny shamyryn, va’n lhiurid echey jeih cubityn as da-eed - And the wall that was without over against the chambers, toward the utter court on the forepart of the chambers, the length thereof was fifty cubits (Ezekiel 42:7)

As **jeeragh er** ny shamyryn, va walk jeih cubityn er lhead er cheu-sthie, as keead cubit ayns lhiurid, as ny giattyn lesh y twoaie - And before the chambers was a walk to ten cubits breadth inward, a way of one cubit; and their doors toward the north. (Ezekiel 42:4)

As hie as hoie ee sheese **jeeragh er**, thammylt mie veih, mysh orraghey sidey: son dooyrt ee, Ny lhig dou fakin baase y lhiannoo. As hoie ee sheese **jeeragh er**, as hrog ee seose e coraa, as ren ee keayne - And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bow shot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept (Genesis 21:16)

kione

The complex preposition *kione*—originally a form of the preposition *ayns* (Irish *i*), which has since been elided, plus the noun *kione* ‘head, end’—has three distinct meanings:

- 1) mixed with
- 2) leading
- 3) in, within, after (with expressions of time)

1) The meaning ‘mixed with’ is usually used of physical substances. Note the expression *kione y cheilley* ‘mixed together’. *Kione y cheilley* is a neutral expression referring to a physical state of affairs, such as the mixing of ingredients in cooking. The semantically relation expression *fud y cheilley* tends to have more negative connotations, meaning ‘mixed up, confused’, whether in a physical or a mental sense.

The only commonly encountered pronominal form is the 3rd person singular *ny chione* ‘mixed with it’. (The appearance of *ny* shows that this is an ‘ayns’ preposition.)

Examples:

As son wheesh as dy vaik oo yiarn **kione** y chray hallooin, nee ad seiy ad hene fud slught deiney, agh cha jean ad lhiantyn dy cheilley, eer myr nagh vel yiarn taah rish cray - And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle

themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay (Daniel 2:43)

As yiw aarloo oural-arran lesh dagh moghrey, yn cheyoo ayn dy ephah, as y trass aynr jeh hin dy ooil dy chur **kione** y flooyr meein - And thou shalt prepare a meat offering for it every morning, the sixth part of an ephah, and the third part of an hin of oil, to temper with the fine flour (Ezekiel 46:14)

As bee'n oural-arran oc dy flooyr lesh ooil **ny-chione** - And their meat offering shall be of flour mingled with oil (Numbers 29:3)

Cha jean oo dty gharey-feeyney y chuirr lesh caghlaaghyn rass **kione-y-cheilley** - Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds [mixed together] (Deuteronomy 22:9)

hug eh lesh mysh keead punt dy vyrrh as dy aloes **kione y cheilley** - [he] brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight (John 19:39)

2) 'Leading'.

Example:

Lhig-jee daue: she leeideilee doal ad ta **kione** y vooinjer ghoal. As my ta'n doal shooyll **kione** y doal, tuittee ad ny-neesht ayns y jeeg - Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch (Matthew 14:14)

3) *Kione* is used with expressions of time to mean the time within which or just after which something occurs, where English uses *in*, *within* (and where Manx may also use *ayns*) or *after*:

Tar-jee hym reesht **kione three laa** - Come again unto me after three days (2 Chronicles 10:5)

kione tammylt dy cra [hraa] ren shin prowal reesht - After a while we 'proved' again (Ned Beg 7)

BUT: ayns shiaghtin dy hraa ver-ymys fliaghey er y thaloo, da-eed laa as da-eed oie - yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights (Genesis 7:4)

raad

This preposition has two senses:

- 1) via, by, by way of
- 2) towards, to, to meet

1) Examples:

Ta jurnah un laa jeig, veih Horeb **raad** cronk Seir, gys Kadesh-barnea - There are eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadeshbarnea (Deuteronomy 1:2)

Agh ny-yeih, (as eshyn,) lhig dou roie. As dooyrt eh rish, Roie royd: eisht ghow Ahimaaz yn aagherrit **raad** y thaloo-rea, as chossyn eh er Cushy - But howsoever, said he, let me run. And he said unto him, Run. Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and overran Cushy (2 Samuel 18:23)

cur-my-ner, t'ad cheet seose **raad** liargagh Ziz, as hee shiu ad ec kione y choan, liorish faasagh Jeruel - behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel (2 Chronicles 19:16)

dy chooilley unnane hed **raad** Vabylon, gowee ad yindys, as nee ad gannidys er ooilley ny t'ee dy hurranse - every one that goeth by Babylon shall be astonished, and hiss at all her plagues [all that she suffers] (Jeremiah 50:13)

2) Examples, with pronominal forms *ny raad* etc.:

As haink troailtagh **raad** y dooinney berchagh - And there came a traveller unto the rich man - (2 Samuel 12:4)

er-be dy vel mee soiaghey jeh persoon Jehoshaphat ree Yudah, cha jeeaghin **dy raad**, ny fakin oo - were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee (2 Kings 3:14)

Goll trooid y traid, er-gerrey da'n corneil eck, as hie eh **raad** e thie - Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house (Proverbs 7:8)

As cha leah's daag eh eh, haink lion **ny raad**, as varr eh eh - And as soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him, and slew him (1 Kings 20:36)

Shen-y-fa ren eh resooney ayns y synagogue rish ny Hewnyn, as rish ny deiney craee, as ayns thie ny quaallagh gagh laa roosyn va cheet **ny raad** - Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market [court-house] daily with them that met with him (Acts 17:17)

A common idiom is *raad y vaaish*, literally 'in the way of death', which is the standard Manx way of saying 'dying' when the emphasis is on the approach to death, not the actual moment. Cf. English 'at death's door'.

Son va un ynrycan inneen echey, va mysh daa vlein jeig dy eash, as v'ee **raad y vaaish** - For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying (Luke 8:42)

Cur-my-ner, ta mee **raad y vaaish**; as cre sheeagh dou yn eiraght shoh? - Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? (Genesis 25:32)

Son v'eh lhag dy jarroo as **raad y vaaish**: agh ren Jee myghin er - For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him (Philippians 2:27)

coair, faare - near

These prepositions seem to have nearly the same meaning, '(coming) near, towards', often with an implication of touching or contact, and are both conjugated *ny aare, ny choair* etc.:

chamoo nee chingys trombe erbee cheet **faare** dty chummal - neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling (Numbers 9:10)

My vees dooinney erbee jiuish, ny jeh nyn slught neu-ghlen, liorish cheet **faare** corp marroo, ny er jurnah foddey jeh, ny-yeih nee eh yn chaisht y reayll gys y Chiarn - If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the Lord (Exodus 19:12)

va skell sollys er e eddin; as va aggle orroo dy heet **ny aare** - the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him (Exodus 34:30)

bee mainyn aarloo dy ghoaill e vioys my jig eh **nyn vaar** - we, or ever [if] he come near, are ready to kill him (Acts 23:15)

haink eh **m'aare** - he came towards me (HLSM 2 p. 155)

Quoi-erbee ta goaill er dy heet **coair** cabbane casherick y Chiarn, bee eh er ny stroie - Whosoever cometh any thing near unto the tabernacle of the Lord shall die (Numbers 17:13)

Shass ort hene, ny tar **my choair**; son ta mee ny s'casherick na uss - Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou (Isaiah 65:5)

Agh cha row Abimelech er jeet **ny coair** - But Abimelech had not come near her (Genesis 20:4)

A form of *faare* with a disjunctive personal pronoun is also attested:

Deie ad daue, Reue-jee, te neu-ghlen, reue-jee, reue-jee, ny tar-jee **faare ad** - They cried unto them, Depart ye; it is unclean; depart, depart, touch [them] not (Lamentations 4:15)

Note also *faare* used as an adverb qualifying an equative:

As cred eh son Firrinys shicky, nagh vel Aigney ghiastyllagh as aarloo dy leih **faar** cha vondeishagh da Persoon erbee, as te dasyn echey te - And believe it for a certain Truth, that a charitable and forgiving Temper is not nearly so beneficial to any body as to him that hath it (Shibber y Chiarn p. 48)

Proverb of the Month:

Ellagyn aase as ellagyn y vaase - Growing hiccoughs and death hiccoughs.