

Embedded Clauses

Elicited by Andrew Carnie, Fall 2007

- 67) Thuirt Iain “Bruidhidh Màiri Gàidhlig
say.past Iain speaks Mary Gaelic”
‘Iain said “Mary speaks Gaelic.”
Note: Future being used as a habitual present”
Note: Quotative
- 67a) Thuirt Iain “Tha a’ Ghàidhlig aig Màiri”
say.past Iain be.pres the Gaelic at Mary”
‘Iain said “Mary speaks Gaelic.”
Note: quotative
Note: idiomatic expression of Mary speaks Gaelic
- 68a) Arsa mise “tha a’ Ghàidhlig aig Màiri”
say.past Is.emph be.pres the Gaidhlig at Mary”
‘I said “Mary speaks Gaelic.”
Note: quotative
- 68b) “Tha Gàidhlig aig Màiri” arsa mise
be.pres Gaelic at Mary say.past Is.emph
“”Mary speaks Gaelic” said I,’
Note: quotative inversion
- 68c) “Tha Gàidhlig aig Màiri” thuirt mise
be.pres Gaelic at Mary say.past Is.emph
“”Mary speaks Gaelic” said I.’
Note: quotative inversion
- 69a) Thuairt Iain gu bheil a’ Ghàidhlig aig Màiri
say.past Iain that be.dep.pres the Gaelic at Mary
“Iain said that Mary speaks Gaelic
Note embedded clause
Note indirect speech
- 69a) *Arsa Iain gu bheil a’ Ghàidhlig aig Màiri
say.past Iain that be.dep.pres the Gaelic at Mary
‘Iain said that Mary speaks Gaelic.’
Note: UNGRAMMATICAL
Note: Arsa not allowed with indirect speech

70) Tha gu bheil Màiri a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig
 be.pres that be.dep.pres Mary prog speak.vn Gaelic

curdromach gu Iain
 important to Iain
 'That Mary speaks Gaelic is important to Iain.'

70a) Tha gu bheil Màiri a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig
 be.pres that be.dep.pres Mary prog speak Gaelic

curdromach
 important
 'That Mary speaks Gaelic is important.'

70b) Tha gu bheil Màiri a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig
 be.pres that be.dep.pres Mary prog speak.vn Gaelic

curdromach do Iain
 important to Iain
 'That Mary speaks Gaelic is important to Iain.'

71) Tha gu bheil Màiri a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig
 be.pres that be.dep.pres Mary prog speak.vn Gaelic

curdromach dha
 important to^{3sm}
 'That Mary speaks Gaelic is important to him.'
 Note Dha preferred over gu/thuige

no 72

73) Tha e cudromach gu bheil Gàidhlig aig Màiri
 be.pres it important that be.dep.pres Gaelic at Mary
 'It is important that Mary has Gaelic.'

73a) Tha e cudromach gum bi Gàidhlig aig Màiri
 be.pres it important that be.dep.fut Gaelic at Mary
 'It is important that Mary has Gaelic.'
 Note: future tense used as habitual present
 Note: e is not optional

- 74) Tha e cudromach do Iain gu bheil Gàidhlig
 be.pres it important to Iain that be.dep.fut Gaelic
 aig Màiri
 at Mary
 ‘It is important to Iain that Mary has Gaelic.’
 Note: future tense used as habitual present
- 75) Tha e cudromach dha gu bheil Gàidhlig aig
 be.pres it important to3sm that be.dep.fut Gaelic at
 Màiri
 Mary
 ‘It is important to him that Mary has Gaelic.’
 Note: future tense used as habitual present
- 76) *?Tha e cudromach gu bheil Gàidhlig aig Màiri
 be.pres 3sm important that be.dep.pres Gaelic at Mary
 dha
 to.3sm
 ‘It is important to him that Mary has Gaelic.’
 Note: dha can shift rightwards in this
 Note: pronoun post-posing
 note: marginal grammaticality (dha is preferred before gu)
- 77) *Tha gu bheil Gàidhlig aig Màiri coltach
 be.pres that be.dep.pres Gaelic at Mary likely
 ‘That Mary has Gaelic is likely.’
 Note: Clausal subject isn’t ok with likely
- 77a) Tha e coltach gum bruidhinn Màiri Gàidhlig
 be.pres 3sm likely that speak.fut Mary Gaelic
 ‘It is likely that Mary will speak Gaelic.’
- 78) Tha e coltach gu bheil Gàidhlig aig Màiri
 be.pres 3sm likely that be.dep.pres Gaelic at Mary
 ‘It is likely that Mary has Gaelic.’
 Note: seems and likely are identical
- 79) Thachair e gun do bhruidhinn Màiri Gàidhlig
 happens 3sm that past speak.past Mary Gaelic
 ‘It happens that Mary spoke Gaelic.’

- 79a) Thachair gun do bhruidhinn Màiri Gàidhlig
 happens that past speak.past Mary Gaelic
 ‘It happens that Mary spoke Gaelic.’
 Note: expletive optional, clause is subject
- 80) Tha Màiri coltach Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn
 be.pres Mary likely Gaelic tran speak.vn
 ‘Mary is likely to speak Gaelic.’
- 81) Tha Gàidhlig coltach air a bhith a
 be.pres Gaelic likely perf prt be tran.3sf
 bruidhinn le Màiri
 speak.vn by Mary
 ‘Gaelic is likely to have been spoken by Mary.’
- 81b) Tha e coltach gum bi a’ Ghàidhlig air a
 be.pres 3sm likely that be.fut the Gaelic perf tran.3sf
 bruidhinn le Màiri
 speak.vn by Mary
 ‘It is likely that Gaelic was spoken by Mary.’
 Note Perfective marker used for passive
- 82) Chreid Iain gun do bhruidhinn Màiri Gàidhlig
 believed Iain that past speak.past Mary Gaelic
 ‘Iain believes that Mary spoke Gaelic.’
- 82a) *Chreid Iain Màiri a’ Ghaidhlig a bhruidhinn
 believed Iain Mary the Gaelic tran speak.vn
 ‘Iain believed Mary to speak Gaelic.’
 Note: UNGRAMMATICAL
 Note: using 3sm masculine form of a, because object is not pronominal
 Note: cf. Chreidear Màiri Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn le Iain
- 82b) Chreid Iain gun robh Màiri airson Gàidhlig a
 believed Iain that was Mary for Gaelic tran
 bhruidhinn
 speak.vn
 ‘Iain believed that Mary was for speaking Gaelic.’

84) ?*Bha Màiri air a creidsinn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn
 was Mary perf prt believe.vn Gaelic tran speak.vn

le Iain

by Iain

‘Mary was believed to speak Gaelic by Iain.’

Note: UNGRAMMATICAL

Note: Perfect marker used to mark passive

85) ?? Bha Màiri air a creidsinn le Iain Gàidhlig a
 was Mary perf prt believe.vn by Iain Gaelic tran

bhruidhinn

speak.vn

‘Mary was believed by Iain to speak Gaelic.’

Note: Perfect marker used to mark passive

Note: Native speaker reports awkward

86) Chaidh Màiri a’ creidsinn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn le
 went Mary prog believe.vn Gaelic tran speak.vn by

Iain

Iain

‘Mary was believed to speak Gaelic by Iain.’

86b) Chaidh Màiri a creidsinn le Iain Gàidhlig a
 went Mary prog believe.vn by Iain Gaelic tran

bhruidhinn

speak.vn

‘Mary was believed by Iain to speak Gaelic.’

86c) Chreidear Màiri Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn le Iain
 believe.impers Mary Gaelic tran speak.vn with Iain

‘Mary was believed to speak Gaelic by Mary.’

Note: formal

86c) Chreidear Màiri le Iain Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn le
 believe.impers Mary with Iain Gaelic tran speak.v with

Iain

Iain

‘Mary was believed to speak Gaelic by Mary.’

Note: formal

87) Bha a' Ghàidhlig air a creidsinn le Iain
 was the Gaelic perf trans.3sf believe.vn with Iain

a bhith air a bruidhinn le Màiri
 inf be.fut perf tran.3sf speak.vn with Mary
 'Gaelic was believed by Iain to be spoken by Mary.'

88) Bha a' Ghàidhlig air a creidsinn a bhith
 was the Gaelic perf trans.3sf believe.vn prt be

air a bruidhinn le Màiri
 perf trans.3sf **speak.vn** with Mary
 'Gaelic was believed to be spoken by Mary.'

89) Tha mise ag iarraidh gum bruidhinn Màiri
 be.pres 1s.emph prog ask.vn that **speak.fut** Mary

Gàidhlig
 Gaelic
 'I want that Mary speaks Gaelic.'
 Note: Future used as present habitual

89a) Tha mise 'g iarraidh Màiri a' Ghàidhlig a
 be.pres 1s.emph ask.vn Mary the Gaelic trans

bhruidhinn
 speak.vn
 'I want Mary to speak Gaelic.'

90) tha mise ag iarraidh a' Ghàidhlig a
 be.pres 1s.emph prog ask.vn the Gaelic trans

bhruidhinn
 speak.vn
 'I want to speak Gaelic.'

91) *Tha mise smaonachadh Màiri Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn
 be.pres 1s think.vn Mary Gaelic tran speak.vn

'I think Mary to speak Gaelic.'
 Note: UNGRAMMATICAL

- 92) Airson Màiri Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn tha e cudromach
 for Mary Gaelic tran speak be.pres it important
 do Iain
 to Ian
 ‘For Mary to speak Gaelic (it is) important to Iain.’
- 92a) * Tha airson Màiri Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn cudromach
 be.pres for Mary Gaelic tran speak important
 do Iain
 to Ian
 ‘For Mary to speak Gaelic is important to Iain.’
 Note: UNGRAMMATICAL
- 93) Tha a’ Ghàidhlig a bruidhinn cudromach do
 be.pres the Gaelic tran.3sf speak.vn important to
 Mhàiri
 Mary
 ‘To speak Gaelic is important to Mary.’
- 93a) Tha a’ Ghàidhlig a bhruidhinn cudromach do
 be.pres the Gaelic trans speak.vn important to
 Mhàiri
 Mary
 ‘To speak Gaelic is important to Mary.’
- 93b) Tha bruidhinn Gàidhlig cudromach do Mhàiri
 be.pres speak.vn Gaelic important to Mary
 ‘Speaking Gaelic is important to Mary.’
- 93c) Tha bruidhinn a’ Ghàidhlig cudromach do Mhàiri
 be.pres speak.vn the Gaelic important to Mary
 ‘Speaking Gaelic is important to Mary.’
- 93d) Tha bruidhinn na Gàidhlig cudromach do Mhàiri
 be.pres speak.vn the.gen Gaelic.gen important to Mary
 ‘Speaking Gaelic is important to Mary.’
- 94) Thug mi m’ fhacal do Mhàiri gum bruidhinninn Gàidhlig
 gave I my word to Mary that speak.cond.1s Gaelic
 ‘I gave my word to Mary that I would speak Gaelic.’
 Note: elicitation prompt: promise

- 94a) Thug mi m' fhacal do Mhàiri a' Ghàidhlig a
gave I my word to Mary the Gaelic tran

bhruidhinn
speak.vn
'I gave my word to Mary to speak Gaelic.'
Note: elicitation prompt: promise
- 94b) Gheall mi Màiri Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn
promise Is Mary Gaelic tran speak.vn
'I promised Mary to speak Gaelic.'
- 94c) Gheall mi do Mhàiri Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn
promise I to Mary Gaelic tran speak
'I promised Mary to speak Gaelic.'
- 94d) Gheall mi Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn do Mhairi
promise I Gaelic trans speak.vn to Mary
'I promised Mary to speak Gaelic.'
- 95) Dh'iarr mi air Màiri Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn
Past'ask I on Mary Gaelic tran speak.vn
'I demanded Mary speak Gaelic.'
Note: Ask on means "order" or "demand"
- 97) Tha Gàidhlig soirbh ionnsachadh
be.pres Gaelic easy learn.vn
'Gaelic is easy to learn.'
Note: a transitive particle is deleted next to the vowel (a hionnsachadh)
- 97a) Tha Gàidhlig furasda ionnsachadh
be.pres Gaelic easy learn.vn
'Gaelic is easy to learn.'
Note: a transitive particle is deleted next to the vowel (a hionnsachadh)
- 98) Tha e soirbh Gaelic ionnsachadh
be.pre it easy Gaelic learn.vn
'It is easy to learn Gaelic.'
Note: a transitive particle is deleted next to the vowel (a hionnsachadh)
- 99) Tha Iain iasgaidh airson a' Ghàidhlig ionnsachadh
be.pres Iain eager for the Gaelic learn.vn
'Iain is eager to learn Gaelic.'
Note: a transitive particle is deleted next to the vowel (a hionnsachadh)

99a) Tha Iain iasgaidh a' Ghàidhlig ionnsachadh
be.pres Iain eager the Gaelic learn.vn
'Iain is eager to learn Gaelic.'

Note: a transitive particle is deleted next to the vowel (a hionnsachadh)

100) Tha gu bheil Gàidhlig soirbh ionnsachadh iongantach
be that be.dep.pres Gaelic easy learn.vn surprising
'That Gaelic is eay to learn is surprising.'

Note: a transitive particle is deleted next to the vowel (a hionnsachadh)