

## DIALANN DÍ

– ag ól in Ultaibh –

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This is a collection of drinking words and phrases I have been collecting over the years. As far as I know, they are all in Ulster Irish, and I have taken liberties with the spelling in order to convey the pronunciation. I have also inserted some rough pronunciations in italics. I have tried to avoid very obscure words and literary phrases. This is the first version and I am open to any suggestions!

### Tart Thirst

Tá mo theangaidh amuigh (leis an tart)	My tongue's hanging out (with thirst)
Tá mé stiúgthaí leis an tart <i>/stchookee/</i>	I'm dying of thirst
Tá mé ag fáil bháis leis an tart	I'm dying of thirst
Caithfidh mé mo thart a chosc	I'll have to quench my thirst
Caithfidh mé fliuchadh mo bhéil a fháil	I'll have to wet the whistle
Cá bhfuil an gabhar á rósadh anocht?	Where's the craic tonight?
Cá bhfuil an tobar?	Where's the pub?

### An tÁbhar The Ingredients

Deoch mheisciúil	an intoxicating drink
Deoch láidir	a strong drink
Deoch chruaidh	a drop of the hard stuff
Deoch bhog	soft drink
Deoch lag	a weak drink
Fíon geal	white wine
Fíon dearg	red wine
Fíon úll	cider
Uisce beatha	whiskey
Beoir	beer

Leann	ale
Leann dubh	stout
Sé-phaca	six-pack
Biotáilte	spirits, strong drink
Fíoruisce	bottled (spring) water
Pionta Cláirsí*	pint of Harp
Pionta Dubh*	pint of Guinness
Geal*	gin
Bhodca*	vodka
* <i>i gCumann Chluain Árd</i>	

Manglam	cocktail
Eisceadúnas	off-license
Iompar amach	carry-out

leithcheann	½ 'un (of spirits)
ceann beag	a measure (of spirits)
gloine uisce beatha	a double of whiskey

If you order a *leathphionta* (half-pint) in Donegal, you might get *dhá phionta* (2 pints), as it's heard as *dheá phionta /ye finta/*, the local pronunciation for 'dhá phionta'. A half-pint of Guinness is *gloine Guinness*.

## Fonn Óil

A Mood for a Drink

Tá fonn óil / ólacháin orm	I'm in the mood for a drink
Tá dúil sa deoch agam	I have a liking for the drink
Ní bheadh doicheall ar bith orm roimh chorrdeoch	I would not be averse to the odd drink
Tá mé ag dul ar meisce / <i>air miskeh</i> /	I'm going to get drunk
Tá mé ag dul ar an drabhlás	I'm going on the tear
Tá mé ag dul ar an spraoi	I'm going on the tear
Tá mé ag dul ar na cannaí	I'm going on the tear
Tá mé ag dul ar an ran-dan	I'm going on the tear
Thairg sé deoch domh	He offered me a drink
An mbeidh deoch agat?	Will you have a drink?
Cad é bheas agat?	What'll you have?

Cad é ólfas tú?

(Tabhair) domh pionta  
Seo duit / agat  
Maith thú  
Sonas ar do lámh

What'll you drink?

Give me a pint  
Here you are  
Good on you  
May your hand prosper (for giving me that)

An bhfuil oighreog agat?  
Uisce beatha a ól craorag / ar a lom  
Cuir uisce air/ fríd/ ann  
Cuir braon measartha ann  
Ná déan Seán báite den uisce beatha  
Tá sé anbhann /*anawin*/  
Fliuch tóin an ghloine domh (*'gloine' is masculine in Donegal*)  
Cuir amach deoch dó

Have you got ice?  
To drink whiskey neat  
Put water in it  
Put a fair drop in  
Don't water the whiskey too much

It's weak  
Give me a wee taste

Pour him a drink

Ná doirt é  
Chuir sí amach gloiní lán go béal  
Tabhair anuas an buidéal sin  
Tóg an gloine seo agus lig le do ghrásta í

Don't spill it  
She filled glasses to the brim  
Bring down that bottle  
Take this glass and drink it up

Ag suimíneacht (ar an deoch)  
Bhí sí ag baint súimín as gloine fíona

Sipping  
She was sipping a glass of wine

Ag diúl piontaí  
Bain braon as

Supping pints  
Take a drop of it

Bain súimín as

Take a sip of it

Bain slog as  
Bain bolgam as  
Bain fad as

Take a swig  
Take a mouthful  
Make it last

Braoinín bradach

A drop on the sly

Ag craosól, ag ól go craosach

Drinking voraciously

Ól siar go tóin é

Drink it till the bottom

Ól siar é agus ná lig aniar é

Knock it back and don't let it up again

Ól tarraingt do chinn as  
Ól é as a neart  
Ól é ar a láidreacht  
Níl sé rólaidir agam  
Tá sé rólag agam  
Níl blas air

Drink as much as you can in one gulp  
Drink it neat  
Drink it neat  
It's not too strong for me  
It's too weak for me  
It has no taste at all

Tá cúr breá air sin  
Tá an pionta ag cur thar maoil  
Smugairle  
Tá an deoch ag breith orm

There's a good head on that  
The pint's overflowing  
Foam running down side of a glass  
The drink's having an effect on me

Tá mo sháith agam  
Tá mo sheacht sáith agam  
D'ól mé mo sháith ach níor ól mé mo  
chuid  
Gríodán dí

I've had enough  
I've had more than enough  
I drank what I had but it wasn't  
enough  
Dregs of drink

## Cur Dí

### A Round of Drinks

Buail an bord!  
Ag comhól  
Tá deoch agam ort  
Ormsa an deoch an iarraidh seo  
B'orm an deoch  
Iarrfaidh mé an deoch seo

Order drinks!  
Drinking in company  
You owe me a drink  
The drink's on me this time  
The drink was on me  
I'll order this round

Seal s'agamsa anois é

It's my round now

Seo mo shealsa  
Do shealsa atá ann  
Tháinig mo sheal orm

It's my round now  
It's your round  
My turn came

Cur s'agamsa anois etc  
An cur céanna arís, pionta an duine

It's my round  
Same again, a pint each

Chuir sé an cur ar an tábla  
Deoch a sheasamh do dhuine

He put the round on the table  
To stand someone a drink

Seas do lámh

Stand your round!

Seo mo chursa  
Cheannaigh sé cur deochanna

It's my round  
He bought a round of drinks

Ghní sé a fhiúntas i gcónaí  
Deoch an dorais

He always stands his round  
'One for the road'

## Lorg an Óil

The Effects of Drink

Chuaigh an deoch ina cheann dó  
Bhuail sé leis an ól  
Ta sé ag luí leis an ól  
Tá sé tugtha don ól  
Rinne sé bó de fhéin

The drink went to his head  
He took to the drink  
He is heavy on the drink  
He's hooked an drink  
He made a terrible drunkard of himself

Tá sé trom ar an ól  
Chuaigh sé chun drabhláis  
Fuair an deoch lámh an uachtair air

He's hard on the drink  
He went to the dogs  
The drink got the better of him

Tá sé ar an ól arís

He's on the drink again

Níl sé ábalta an deoch a iompar

He's not able to hold his drink

Níl acfuinn agam air nó goile agam dó

I can't stand it and neither can my stomach

Tá mé ag staonadh ón ól  
Chuaigh mé ar an turach  
Chuir mé an pledge orm

I'm abstaining from the drink  
I'm abstaining from the drink  
I took the pledge

Tá boladh na biotáilte ort

You smell of drink

Súgach

tipsy

Bogtha (ag an ól) /buka/  
Ar bogmheisce  
Bogólta  
Meidhreach

tipsy  
tipsy  
tipsy  
tipsy

Leathólta  
Leath ar meisce

half drunk  
half drunk

Ar meisce  
Ólta

drunk  
drunk

D'ól sé deoir bheag thar an chóir D'ól sé rud beag de bharraíocht Bhí braon de bharraíocht aige Tá glincín sa ghrágán aige	He's had one too many He's had one too many He's had one too many He's well-oiled
Tá sé bogtha go breá	He's well on
Tá braon breá ólta aige Tá braon breá ar bord aige	He's drunk a fair bit He's drunk a fair bit
D'ól sé na cuileachtacha	He drank a skinful
Ar deargmheisce Deargólta Caoch Ar dubhmheisce Dallólta Ar steallaí meisce Marbhólta Stiúgthaí ólta Ar na cannaí	very drunk very drunk very drunk very drunk very drunk very drunk very drunk very drunk
Tá sé lán (go dtí an sceadamán) Tá sé lán (go bun na teanga) Tá póit mhillteanach ólta aige	He's full He's full He's drunk a terrible lot
D'ólfadh sé biotáilte as trach muice D'ólfadh sé an Éirne D'ólfadh sé an chros den asal D'ólfadh sé an léinidh dá dhroim Bhí sé ag ól dhá oiread liom fhéin	He'd drink out of a pig trough He's drink Loch Erne dry He's drink the cross off a donkey He'd drink the shirt off his back He was drinking twice as much as myself
Bhí sé ag ól agus ag ithe mar a bheadh deireadh an tsaoil ann	He was eating and drinking as if it were the end of the world
Bíonn sé i gcónaí ag stocaireacht ar a chairde	He's always sponging on his friends
Tá sé ag dul a chnagadh!	He's going to hit him!
Ní rabh eadarthu ach titim amach teach tábhairne	They only fell out because of drink (they'll be friends again)
Bhí sé ag drádánacht	He was hanging around drunkenly in a pub, accosting people

"Do réir mar lean seisean do'n ghloine lean a' gloine dó, go dtí sa deireadh go rabh mo dhuine bocht ar slabhra aige" (*Cith is Dealán* pg.117)

'As he followed the drink, the drink followed him, until he was hooked on it at the end.'

Tá sé iontach éadrom sa cheann

He's very light-headed

Tá sé ag cogaint a chuid cainte

He's slurring his speech

Tá dhá thaobh an bhealaigh leis

He's staggering

Bhí sé ag tabhairt dhá thaobh an bhealaigh leis

He was staggering

Bhí na cosa ag imeacht faoi

He was about to keel over

Bhí na cosa ag lúbadh faoi

He was about to keel over

D'imigh mo chos orm

I slipped

Tá lorg an óil ort

You look the worse for wear

Tá dreach deochdhaite ort

Your face is flushed with drink

Tá d'aghaidh lasta leis an ól

Your face is flushed with drink

Duine meirgreach

Someone with a blotched face

Níl ann ag mórtas meisciúil

It's only drunken boasting

## Tinneas Póite

Hangover

Tá sé scriosta

He's wrecked (this means 'penniless' in Gaoth Dobhair)

Tá tinneas póite orm  
Tá ceann ramhar orm  
Tá tromcheann orm  
Ta cloigeann mór orm

I've a hangover  
I've a hangover  
I've a hangover  
I've a hangover

Tá mo cheann ag dul thart

My head's spinning

Tá an driopás orm  
Tá mo cheann á scoilteadh  
Tá mo chloigeann á réabadh  
Tá an cloigeann ag éirí domh  
(<díom)

I have the shakes  
My head is splitting  
My head is splitting  
My head is splitting

Tá mé fá ghruaim  
Tá droimdubhach orm  
Tá lionn dubh orm  
Tá gol an ghaire orm  
Tá mé sna haras

I'm depressed  
I'm depressed  
I'm depressed  
I'm paying for my pleasure  
I'm neurotic and depressed (because  
of hangover)

Tá tú dubh fá na súile  
Tá bonnaí faoi do shúile

You have black rings under your eyes  
You have black rings under your eyes

Tá an chuma sin thuas ort  
Tá samhnas orm leis an uisce beatha  
Thiontaigh sé mo ghoile  
Tá tinneas bhéal an ghoile ag cur orm  
Chuirfeadh sé tarraingt orla ort  
Tá fonn orla orm  
Tá mé ag dul a chaitheamh amach

You certainly look that way  
The whiskey has sickened me  
It turned my stomach  
Indigestion is bothering me  
It would make you sick  
I feel like throwing up  
I'm going to throw up

Sceith mheisce

Drunken vomit

"Béal tinn  
Ceann ramhar  
Pócaí folmha  
Agus intinn bhuartha"

'A sour mouth  
A sore head  
Empty pockets  
And a worried mind'

Leigheas na póite – a hól arís

The cure for a hangover is to drink  
again

Ribe an mhadaidh (a bhain greim  
asat)

Drink the hair of the dog (that bit  
you)

Tá ribe as ruball an mhadaidh de  
dhíth air

He needs a 'cure'

Tá mé sóbráilte anois

I'm sober now



## Leithscéalta Leithris

Excuses for Going to the Toilet

Tá mé ag dul le mo ghnoithe a dhéanamh Chuaigh sé amach lena ghnoithe	I've to answer the call of nature He went out to answer the call of nature
Tháinig mo mhún orm Tá mo mhún agam Tá leatra orm Tá mé ag dul amach le mo mhún	I felt the urge to urinate I have to urinate I'm bursting I'm going out to urinate
Caithfidh mé deor a shileadh d'Éirinn Caithfidh mé dul a scaoileadh cnaipe Caithfidh mé dul a dh'amharc ar na réaltaí Caithfidh mé dul amach le cinntiú an bhfuil féar ag an asal	I have to shed a tear for Ireland I'm going to loosen a button I'm going out to look at the stars I'm going out to make sure the donkey has grass
Caithfidh mé sop a thabhairt don bhoin Caithfidh mé dul go dtí an teach beag Caithfidh mé dul go teach na gcearc Caithfidh mé dul go teach an asail	I've to give some fodder to the cow I've to go to the wee house I've to go to the chicken house I've to go to the donkey shed
Tá do ghabhal ar fhis / <i>air ash</i> / (< ris 'exposed')	Your zip is open!
Gabhal do bhrístí!	Your zip is open!
Tá gabhal do bhrístí foscailte	Your zip is open!

## The Seven Types of Drunkenness, according to Seán Bán Mac Meanman (*Fear Siubhail*, pg 9)

meisce chaointe	crying drunkenness (caoin = lament)
meisce bhruíonte	fighting drunkenness (bruíon = quarrel)
meisce chrábhaidh	religious drunkenness (crábhadh = piety)

meisce gháirí	laughing drunkenness (gáire = laugh)
meisce stangaireachta	cantankerous drunkenness (stangaireacht = quibbling)
meisce bhreallánachta	nonsense drunkenness (breallánacht = silliness)
meisce chodlata	sleepy drunkenness (coladh = sleep)

### Toasts

Sláinte!	Health!
Sláinte mhaith!	Good health!
Do shláinte! /d' lantcheh/	Your health!
Íocshláinte duit!	And the same to you!
D'ól sé sláinte a rabh i láthair	He toasted the health of all present

### Miscellaneous Sayings

Ní féidir an mothú a shárú	You can't beat the feeling
Nuair a bhíonn an deoch istigh bíonn an chiall amuigh	When the drink's in the wit's out
Is giorra deoch ná scéal	Drink should precede conversation
Is fearr gloine anois na beirt aríst	A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
Deoch a chaitheamh mar chógaisí	to take a drink for medicinal reasons
Scilidh fíon fírinne	In vino veritas
Íde gach oilc an t-ól	Drink is the root of all evil
Is fearr fíon ná fuil	It's better to be drinking than fighting
Is maith an mheasarthacht	Moderation is best

Tá tú comh hólta le gadaí	You're as drunk as a thief/boyo
Tá tú comh hólta le stocaire ag bainis	You're as drunk as a gatecrasher at a wedding
Cuireadh gan deoch	A begrudging invitation
Ma théid tú suas ólfar deoch ort, má théid tú síos buailfear cos ort	Success has many friends, failure none
Sin an t-ól agat!	That's drink for you!

Míle buíochas d'achan duine a chuidigh liom, ina measc: Róise Ní Bhaoill, Albert Fry, Gabhán Ó Fachtna, Eithne Ní Ghallchóir, Siuán Ní Mhaonaigh, agus Aodán Mac Póilín.

#### **Foinsí**

Úrscéalta Shéamuis Uí Ghrianna

*An Chéad Chnuasach 1972-'79* le Peigí Rose

*Cnuasach Focal as Ros Goill* le Leaslaoi U. Lúcas

*A Concordance of Idiomatic Expressions in the Writings of Séamus Ó Grianna*  
le Ailbhe Ó Corráin

*Cora Cainte as Tír Chonaill* le Seán Mac Maoláin

*Deismir* le Anraí Mac Giolla Chomhaill

*Fear Siubhail* le Seán Mac Meanman

*Focail na nUltach* le Ciarán Mac Murchaidh

*Foclóir Béarla agus Gaedhilge* le Láimhbheartach Mac Cionnaith

*Sean-Chaint Theilinn* le Seán Ó Heochaidh