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0521793181 - Language and Conquest in Early Modern Ireland: English Renaissance Literature and Elizabethan Imperial Expansion

Patricia Palmer

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LANGUAGE AND CONQUEST IN EARLY MODERN IRELAND

The Elizabethan conquest of Ireland sparked off two linguistic events of enduring importance: it initiated the language shift from Irish to English, which constitutes the great drama of Irish cultural history, and it marks the beginnings of English linguistic expansion. The Elizabethan colonisers in Ireland included some of the leading poets and translators of the day. In *Language and Conquest in Early Modern Ireland*, Patricia Palmer uses their writings, as well as material from the State Papers, to explore the part which language played in shaping colonial ideology and English national identity. Palmer shows how manoeuvres of linguistic expansion rehearsed in Ireland shaped Englishmen's encounters with the languages of the New World, and frames that analysis within a comparison between English linguistic colonisation and Spanish practice in the New World. This is an ambitious comparative study which will interest literary and political historians.

PATRICIA PALMER is a lecturer in the Renaissance School in the Department of English and Related Literature at the University of York. She has published and broadcast on language issues. This is her first book.

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To my parents, William and Catherine Palmer, *le grá*.

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Acknowledgements

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[More information](#)*Abbreviations*

- ALC* *Annals of Loch Cé: A Chronicle of Irish Affairs, 1014–1590*, ed. and trans. William M. Hennessy, vol. 2, Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1939
- ARÉ* *Annála Ríoghachta Éireann / Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland by the Four Masters from the Earliest Period to the Year 1616*, ed. and trans. John O'Donovan., 3 vols. Dublin: Hodges and Smith, 1848.
- CBC* *The Compossicion Booke of Conought*, trans. Alexander M. Freeman, Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1936
- CCCHA* 'Colin Clouts Come Home Again'
- CCM* *Calendar of the Carew Manuscripts*, vols. 1–5, ed. J. S. Brewer and William Bullen, London: Longmans, Green, 1867–71
- CPR* *Calendar of the Patent and Close Rolls of Chancery of Ireland*, vol. 1, ed. James Morrin, Dublin: Thom, 1861–2
- CSPDom.* *Calendar of State Papers preserved in the Public Records Office, Domestic Series, 1581–90*, ed. Robert Lemon, London: Longmans, Green, 1865
1598–1601, ed. M. A. Everett Green, London, 1869
- CSPI* *Calendar of State Papers, Ireland, 1509–1573*, 13 vols., London: His Majesty's Stationary Office, 1860–1912
- DIL* *Dictionary of the Irish Language, based mainly on Old and Middle Irish materials*, ed. E. G. Quin *et al.*, Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 1913–76
- Egmont *Report on the Manuscripts of the Earl of Egmont*, vol. 1, pt. 1, London: Historical Manuscripts Commission, 1905
- FQ* Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, ed. Thomas P. Roche, Penguin, 1978
- JRHAAI* *Journal of the Royal Historical and Archaeological Association of Ireland*, 4th series. vol. 1

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List of abbreviations

- PRO SP Irish State Papers, Public Record Office, Kew
Salis *Calendar of the Manuscripts of the Marquis of Salisbury*, vols. 1–XIII, London: Historical Manuscripts Commission, 1883–1915
- SPH8* *State Papers, King Henry VIII*, vols II & III, London, 1834
Stats *The Statutes at Large from the First Year of King Edward the Fourth to the end of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth*, ed. Danby Pickering, London, 1763
- Stats. Irl.* *The Statutes at Large Passed in the Parliaments held in Ireland*, vol. 1, Dublin, 1786
- UJA* *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, vols. 2–6, 1854–8