
Irish Language Film *Tarrac*: Minority Language, Rural Sport, and Collective Efficacy in Female Team Athletes

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Résumé

This paper analyses the Irish language film, *Tarrac*, that features the endeavours of an all-female rowing team set in a Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) area in a rural Ireland. It seeks to investigate the dynamic relationship between linguistic identity and collective athletic performance, using the Irish language as a unique analytical lens. Focusing on a specific minority sport, Namhóg rowing (a namhóg is a wooden boat covered in animal skin or canvas coated in tar traditionally used off the south-west coast of Ireland), the study considers how the semantic connections of the Irish term *Tarrac* (pull) serve as a metaphor for female sporting agency and group cohesion. *Tarrac* presents a narrative in which localised linguistic, geographic and cultural identities offer a framework for exploring global themes of sporting unity, interdependence and the expression of female empowerment in a competitive environment. The paper examines how the female athletes operating in a minoritised cultural context negotiate and assert their collective strength on the rowing team. Further, it seeks to explore how *Tarrac* plays an important role in challenging dominant patriarchal norms associated with the sports film in popular culture.

Mots-Clés: female athletic subjectivity, collective efficacy, minority language

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