

# OBSCURE IRISH ENGLISH DIALOGUE AND HERMETIC CULTURAL MEANING IN LISA MCGEE'S *DERRY GIRLS*

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**Abstract:** *The paper intends to explicate the reasons why the 2018 British-Irish television series Derry Girls seemingly succeeded against all odds to become one of Channel 4's most successful ever shows. Derry Girls uses unadulterated Derry/Londonderry English dialogue with highly specific 1990s and native references. I argue that its writer Lisa McGee wrote it in this way so as to make Derry Girls as organic and culturally alive as possible. Without the usage of Derry/Londonderry English dialogue, the unique character of Derry Girls would arguably become subject to artistic compromise and erosion. I argue that copious layers of nuanced meaning would become lost from the show if its usage of Derry/Londonderry English became softened or even "translated" slightly into Standard English. This is because it is a core element of Derry Girls idiosyncratic style which celebrates Irish English and revels in its remarkable linguistic elasticity. In short, without Derry/Londonderry English, Derry Girls would cease to be as successful as it is.*