

Indigenous languages of the British Isles:

- **English** is the most widely spoken language of the United Kingdom with 92% (49.8 million) speaking English as their main language, and of the remaining eight percent (4.2 million) who had a different main language, the majority (3.3 million) could speak English well or very well. (Office for National Statistics, 2013).

English is a high status language with English used for:

- the internet
- scientific journals
- teaching
- business; and
- popular culture, including films and popular music.

English is the language in which most speech and language therapy degrees are taught in, and as a result, the majority of speech and language therapists are English speakers and until recently, assessments and therapy packages in languages other than English were rare.

- An estimated 700,000 people speak **Welsh** in the UK, the official language of Wales. Welsh is a language of mainly Celtic origin, although there are influences from Latin, French and English (Davies, 2014: 180).
- An estimated 1.5 million people speak **Scots** (i.e. Germanic language variety spoken in Lowland Scotland and part of Ulster) in the UK, which is a sister language of English.
- An estimated 15,000 people living in England and Wales, reported themselves using **British Sign Language** as their main language.
- An estimated 73,804 native speakers in Ireland (2016) speak **Irish** also known as *Gaelic* or the *Irish Gaelic*.
- An estimated 57,375 people in Scotland speak **Scottish Gaelic** which is classed as a indigenous language.
- **Angloromani** is spoken in the United Kingdom and refers to the use of Romani origin words within English conversation.
- An estimated 300-400 people in Cornwall speak **Cornish**, which is a Southwestern Brittonic Celtic language. Cornish is currently recognised as a minority language in the UK
- **Shelta** is a language spoken by Irish travellers. The exact number of speakers in the UK is hard to determine.