

Task 4: Part 1: Identify the verbs in this poem and determine their tenses.

The Irish Language

1 It is gone from the hill and the glen—
2 The strong speech of our sires ;
3 It is sunk in the mire and the fen
4 Of our nameless desires :
5 We have bartered the speech of the Gael
6 For a tongue that would pay,
7 And we stand with the lips of us pale
8 And all bloodless to-day ;
9 We have bartered the birthright of men
10 That our sons should be liars.
11 It is gone from the hill and the glen,
12 The strong speech of our sires.

13 Like the flicker of gold on the whin
14 That the Spring breath unites,
15 It is deep in our hearts, and shall win
16 Into flame where it smites :
17 It is there with the blood in our veins,
18 With the stream in the glen,
19 With the hill and the heath and the weans
20 They shall *think* it again ;
21 It shall surge to their lips and shall win
22 The high road to our rights—
23 Like the flicker of gold on the whin
24 That the sun-burst unites.

Part 2: What do the chosen verb tenses reveal about the speaker's attitude to the Irish language? Please include at least three of your identified verbs in your answer. Your answer should be between 120 and 150 words. You might also want to take into consideration the previous discussion about the poem.
