THEME 2.
THE INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGE FAMILY. LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES
Aims:

• be familiar with the historical background of the Indo-European family of languages;

• be able:

  • to account for the main processes that separated the Germanic languages from the rest of the Indo-European ones;

  • to figure out genetic cognates among the Indo-European languages;

  • to trace the Indo-European roots within the words of Contemporary English.
Points for Discussion

Introduction

2.1. The Indo-European Hypothesis about the Discovery of the Indo-European Family of Languages

2.2. Overview of the Germanic Languages

2.3. Germanic Alphabets

2.4. Indo-European to Germanic: Sound Changes

2.5. Indo-European to Germanic: Changes in Morphology and Syntax

2.6. Indo-European to Germanic: Lexicon Changes

Conclusion
KEY WORDS TO KNOW

- Indo-European (IE), Sanscrit, Latin, Greek
- Germanic
- Grimm's Law
- Second Consonant Shift
- Proto-language
- Inflection
- Cognates
- Centum and Satem
- Runic, Gothic, Latin Alphabet
RECOMMENDED LITERATURE:


ADDITIONAL:
INDO-EUROPEAN HYPOTHESIS

Sir William Jones, 1786, hypothesis that most European languages and others (in India, parts of the Middle East, and Asia) are cognates (are related, as a family, by common origins) notion of a common ancestor language, the Indo-European language, which was the origin of Sanskrit, Persian, Latin, Greek, Romance, Germanic and Celtic languages, and others development of Indo-European theory in the early 19th century
THE ORIGINAL INDO-EUROPEAN PEOPLE

Kurgan culture

Place of residence:
- northwest of the Caucasus
- north of the Caspian Sea (the fifth millennium B.C.)

Aspects of Kurgan culture:
- domesticated cattle and horses;
- farming,
- Herding,
- mobility,
- hilltop forts,
- complex sense of family relationship and organization;
- counting skills;
- used gold and silver;

Migration

Greece by 2000 BC

northern India by 1500 BC)
Indo-European Language Subfamilies and examples:
Indo-Iranian (Sanskrit, Hindi, Bengali, Persian)
Hellenic (Greek)
Armenian (Western Armenian, Eastern Armenian)
Balto-Slavic (Russian, Polish, Czech, Lithuanian)
Albanian (Gheg, Tosk)
Celtic (Irish Gaelic, Welsh)
Italic (Latin, Spanish, Italian, French)
Germanic (German, English, Danish, Dutch, Swedish, Norwegian)
Anatolian (extinct) (Hittite)
Tocharian (extinct) (Tocharian A, Tocharian B)
INDO-EUROPEAN WORLD
This world map shows the approximate distribution of Indo-European languages around the world. Within the red borders, the IE languages are the predominant or official languages. There are **non-Indo-European languages**, within the Indo-European area, such as:

- American Indian languages,
- Basque,
- Hawaiian,
- Australian aboriginal languages,
- Hungarian,
- Finnish,
- Estonian.
Germanic forms one branch in the history of the so-called Indo-European language family. The following summary also shows the other branches:
CENTUM AND SATEM
Centum group
("western" languages): Germanic, Italic, Celtic, Greek, Ancient Macedonian

Satem group
("eastern" languages): Indo-Iranian, Balto-Slavic (Baltic and Slavic), Albanian, Armenian

different treatment of the 3 original velar rows
Centum group ("western" languages): Germanic, Italic, Celtic, Greek, Ancient Macedonian

Satem group ("eastern" languages): Indo-Iranian, Balto-Slavic (Baltic and Slavic), Albanian, Armenian

Lost the distinction between palatal velars and pure velars
\([k, g, gh, kw, gw, gwh]\)

Lost the distinction between labiovelar and pure velar sounds and at the same time assibilated the palatal velars
\([k > \varsigma]\)
# Old And Modern Germanic Languages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old</th>
<th>Modern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Germanic</td>
<td>North Germanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old North (ON)</td>
<td>Danish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Icelandic</td>
<td>Swedish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Norwegian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Icelandic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Faroese</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Old And Modern Germanic Languages (continued)

- **Old**
  - West Germanic
    - Old High German (OHG)
    - Old Saxon (OS)
    - Old Low German (OLG)
    - Old English (OE)
    - Old Frisian (O Fris)
- **Modern**
  - English
  - Flemish
  - Frisian
  - German
  - Afrikaans
  - Yiddish
Old And Modern Germanic Languages (continued)

- Old
- Modern
- East Germanic
- Gothic
- Burgundian extinct
- Vandalic
### Classification of Germanic Tribes

*(Territory: from the Rhine to the Vistula and from the North Sea to the Danube)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tribes</th>
<th>Territory</th>
<th>Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Vindili</td>
<td>eastern part</td>
<td>Eastern Germanic Tribes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Ingvaeones</td>
<td>north-western part</td>
<td>Western Germanic Tribes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Iscaveones</td>
<td>western part</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Herminones</td>
<td>southern part</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Hilleviones</td>
<td>northern part</td>
<td>Northern Germanic Tribes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Classification of Germanic Tribes by C. PLINIUS SECUNDUS

- Vindili Eastern Germanic
- Ingvaeones
- Istaevones Western Germanic
- Herminones
- Hilleviones Northern Germanic
# First Mention Of The Germans (Teutons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Works</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pytheas, the Greek traveller</td>
<td>IV c. B.C.</td>
<td>Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caesar, Julius</td>
<td>100-44 B.C.</td>
<td>Commentarii de bello Gallico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pliny, the Elder</td>
<td>23-79 A.D.</td>
<td>Naturalis Historia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacitus, Cornelius</td>
<td>55-120 A.D.</td>
<td>Germaniae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GERMANIC ALPHABETS

1. Runic Alphabet - fuþark

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Image created by J.D. Higgins, Tues.xxviiiij.Sept 2004
It is supposed that the Runic ABC originated in the 2-3 AD on the banks of the Rhine or the Danube where Germanic tribes could come into contact with Roman culture. Since the Runic ABC was used by different Germanic tribes (Goths, Anglo-Saxons, Scandinavians). It was adapted to the needs of each of these languages.
Ulphila's Gothic ABC originated in the 4th century. It is based on the Greek ABC but has some Latin and Runic letters. This is the ABC of Ulphila's gothic translation of the Bible. But in modern editions of Goth text a Latin transcription of the Gothic ABC is used.
### 3. The Latin Alphabet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AA</th>
<th>BB</th>
<th>CO</th>
<th>DD</th>
<th>EE</th>
<th>FF</th>
<th>[GI]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>q</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>ks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table above shows the Roman alphabet, with each letter represented in its uppercase and lowercase forms. The symbols [GI] likely represent ancient or archaic forms of the letter 'G' and 'I', respectively.
It began to be used when a new technique of writing was introduced. That is spreading of colour, paint on a surface instead of cutting and engraving the letters.

Introduction of the Latin ABC was stimulated by the spread of Christianity, as Christian religious texts were written in Latin.

The Latin ABC was also modified to the peculiar needs of the separate Germanic languages.
# The Earliest Written Records of Germanic Languages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manuscript</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Dialect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Runic inscription (The Ruthwell Cross, The Frank’s Casket)</td>
<td>VIII c.</td>
<td>West Germanic: Northumbrian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The Insertions in Latin texts (“Bede’s Death Song”, “Cædmon’s Hymn”)</td>
<td>VIII c.</td>
<td>West Germanic: Northumbrian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Earliest Written Records Of Germanic Languages (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manuscript</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Dialect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Anglo-Saxon Charters</td>
<td>VIII-IX c.</td>
<td>West Germanic: Kentish, West Saxon, Mercian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles; King Alfred’s translation of Orosius’s World History</td>
<td>IX c.</td>
<td>West Germanic:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World History</td>
<td></td>
<td>West Saxon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### The Earliest Written Records Of Germanic Languages (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manuscript</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Dialect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. King Alfread’s</td>
<td>IX c.</td>
<td>West Germanic: West Saxon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation of Pope Gregory the Great’s Pastoral Care</td>
<td>IX c.</td>
<td>West Germanic: West Saxon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Beowulf</td>
<td>X c.</td>
<td>West Germanic: West Saxon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Glosses to the Gospels</td>
<td>X-XI c.</td>
<td>West Germanic: Mercian,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northumbrian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Grimm's Law or the First Consonant Shift

**Phase Change 1.** Non-Germanic (unshifted) cognates | Germanic (shifted)
---|---
$p (p^h) > f$ | 
Ancient Greek: πούς (pūs), | English: *foot*,
Latin: *pēs*, | Dutch: *voet*,
Sanskrit: *pāda*, | German: *Fuß*,
Lithuanian: *pėda*, | Gothic: *fōtus*,
Russian: *podnožje*, | Icelandic, Faroese: 
*fótur*, | 
Ukrainian: *pidnіžжja* | Danish: *fod*,
| Norwegian, Swedish: *fot*
$t \ (t^{th}) > \theta$

Ancient Greek: τρίτος (tritos)

Latin: tertius,

Gaelic: treas,

Sanskrit: tri,

Lithuanian: trys

Ukrainian: mpu

Russian: mpu

English: third,

Old High German: thritto,

Gothic: pridja,

Icelandic: priðji

$k \ (k^{h}) > h$

Ancient Greek: κύων (kýōn)
## Phase change 2: (shifted) examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Germanic (unshifted) cognates</th>
<th>Germanic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>b &gt; p</strong> \nLatin: <em>baculum</em></td>
<td>English: <em>peg</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>g &gt; k</strong> \nLatin: <em>gelū</em></td>
<td>English: cold, Deutch: koud, German: kalt, Icelandic, Faroese: kaldur, Danish: kold, Swedish: kall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Phase change 3: Non-Germanic (unshifted) cognates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ancient Greek</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Dutch</th>
<th>German</th>
<th>Gothic</th>
<th>Icelandic, Faroese</th>
<th>Danish, Swedish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(b^h \rightarrow b)</td>
<td>(\phi \rho \alpha \Upsilon \Upsilon) ((\varphi \rho \alpha T \Upsilon \Upsilon))</td>
<td>brother</td>
<td>broeder</td>
<td>Bruder</td>
<td>bróðir</td>
<td>brøder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanskrit</td>
<td>(bhrātā)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian</td>
<td>broils</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukrainian, Russian</td>
<td>брат</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Greek</td>
<td>(\theta \Upsilon \alpha) ((\theta \Upsilon \alpha))</td>
<td>door</td>
<td>deur</td>
<td></td>
<td>dyr</td>
<td>dør</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanskrit</td>
<td>dwār</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian</td>
<td>durys</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukrainian</td>
<td>двери</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>дверь</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Greek</td>
<td>(\chi \Upsilon \nu) ((\chi \Upsilon \nu))</td>
<td>goose</td>
<td>goes</td>
<td></td>
<td>гæs</td>
<td>gås</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukrainian</td>
<td>гусак</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>гусь</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COMMON INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGE
Phonology

Many stops, voiced, voiceless, and aspirated ([bh] [dh])
poor in fricatives (only [s] and [z])
several laryngeal (h-like) consonants
(could double as vowels)
nasals [n], [m], and liquids [l] and [r],
and glides [y] and [w] (also could double as vowels)
vowels: [a], [i], [u].
FROM COMMON INDO-EUROPEAN TO GERMANIC

Prosody
Indo-European free, pitch accent became strong stress on the initial syllable in Germanic

Phonology
loss of Indo-European laryngeal consonants, articulation shifting higher up in the vocal tract
Grimm's Law (Jakob Grimm, 1822):
The Common Indo-European language was inflected. It used suffixes and internal (root) vowel changes (ablaut system) to indicate grammatical information like case, number, tense, person, mood, etc.
FROM COMMON INDO-EUROPEAN TO GERMANIC

Morphology

Relative preservation of Indo-European ablaut system (also known as apophony or vowel gradation): changes in root vowels indicated tense, number, part of speech (English sing, sang, sung is a survival of this system). The stability of this system was however undermined because the position of the Indo-European accent was a conditioning factor for the vowel changes and the accent/stress became fixed in the Germanic languages.
Morphology in IE and Germanic Languages

- three numbers: sg, pl, dual
- three genders: masc, fem, neutr
- eight cases
- strong and weak adjectives: after determiner, no determiner: se goda man, god man
- verb marked person, number, aspect, mood (aspect reduced to two tenses in Germanic)
Morphology continued

- three voices: active, passive, middle
- Germanic had five moods: indicative, subjunctive, optative, imperative, injunctive
- seven major morphological verb classes
- dental preterite verbs (weak verbs) in Germanic languages
GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COMMON INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGE

Syntax

Indo-European had a flexible word order, tendency to Subject-Object-Verb (SOV)

Prosody/Accent

Indo-European accent could be on any syllable and was characterized by pitch rather than loudness
FROM COMMON INDO-EUROPEAN TO GERMANIC

Syntax

Germanic retained a relatively free word order, but made greater use of prepositions to compensate for the loss of inflections
Words derived from the Common Indo-European language are preserved in a large number of languages: numerals from one to ten; the word meaning the sum of ten tens (Latin "centum," Avestan "satem," English "hundred"); words for certain bodily parts (heart, lung, head, foot); words for certain natural phenomena (air, night, star, snow, sun, moon, mind); certain plant and animal names (beech, corn, wolf, bear); certain cultural terms (yoke, mead, weave, sew).
Germanic inheritance of many basic words of the Indo-European vocabulary (e.g. cold, winter, honey, wolf, snow, beech, pine, father, mother, sun, tree, long, red, foot, head, and verbs such as be, eat, lie) and forms for grammatical concepts (negation, interrogation) borrowings from Italic, Celtic and Balto-Slavic languages large common and unique vocabulary of the Germanic languages (not present in other Indo-European languages and perhaps borrowed from non-Indo-European languages) (e.g. back, blood, body, bone, bride, child, gate, ground, oar, rat, sea, soul) extensive use derivative affixes and compounding to create new words
Specifically Germanic Words and Word Building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OGL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| OIcel | OH |
The Indo-European Language Family: eminent early scholars

- Franz Bopp (1816)
- Rasmus Rask (1814): the first linguist to describe formally the regularity of sound changes
- Jacob Grimm
Questions for Self-Control

1. Identify Modern Germvanic languages.
2. What family of languages does English belong to?
4. Which of the languages are in closer relations with each other English and French or English and Scottish? French and Moldavian or Ukrainian and Moldavian? English and Ukrainian or English and Hungarian?
5. How is the runic alphabet called?
6. How are the letters of the oldest Germanic alphabet called?
7. How many types of the ABC do the oldest Germanic people use?
Questions for Self-Control (continued)

• What language is called “Proto-Germanic”?  
• What subgroups did the Old Germanic language consist?  
• What languages belonged to the North Germanic subgroup?  
• What languages belonged to the East Germanic subgroup?  
• What languages belonged to the West Germanic subgroup?  
• What alphabets did the old Germanis tribes use?  
• What does Grimm’s law explain?  
• What does Verner’s law explain?  
• To what subgroup did the English language belong?  
• What Germanic dialects did it develop from?