

8 Jan 2020

GL

\* Descriptive adequacy

\* Present English

\* Varieties

\* Synchronic analysis

\* Language = a collection of dialects.

\* Cognates → words human use without having to borrow.

\* Mutual intelligibility

\* Comparative reconstruction

Proto-Indo-European

Germanic

Celtic

Italic

\* English is a Germanic language

ENGL300 Reconstructing Proto-Indo-European

The Comparative Method: Sound Change in Daughter Languages

Consider the following example of the earliest attested forms of the word 'heart' in various Indo European languages:

Cognate List: Modern English 'heart'		
LANGUAGE	WORD	ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION
Sanskrit	hrd-	heard
Greek	kard-	kard
Latin	cord-	kord
Old Church Slavonic	sird-	seerd
Gothic	hairt-	hairt
Old Irish	crid-	kreed
Hittite	kir-	keer
Lithuanian	šird-	sheerd
Polish	srd-	serd

The sound changes observed are the following: [h, k, s, š] + V + r + [d, t, θ]

**NOTE:** Old Irish has an example of **metathesis**: two sounds swapping places (compare [æsk] & [æks])

Similar changes involving the word 'hundred,' (PIE \*kmtom):

Language	Word
Tocharian	kant / kante
Old Irish	cet/ceat
Old High German	hunt
Old Church Slavonic	suto
Sanskrit	satam
Lithuanian	šimtas
French	cent [sah]
Italian	cento [ʧɛnto]
Latin American Spanish	ciento [sjento]
Castilian Spanish	ciento [ɛjento]

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Indo-European Language Family

Common Source: Proto-Indo-European

Cognates - 'PIE'

Cognates: Semantically equivalent & Phonetically Similar



→	Arabic	/jəd/	] Final Cognates Phonetically unsimilar
→	English	/hænd/	
→	Turkish	/el/	
→	Polish	/rɛŋkə/	

Arabic	/jəd/	'hand'	] Final Cognates Semantically unsimilar
Polish	/jəd/	'veran'	

h ɛ p]	'object'	] word-final devoicing
h ɛ b ə	'subject'	

Synthetic Language

\* Inflection

## ENGL 300 History of the English Language

### WHAT IS INFLECTION?

A change in the form of a word to express a grammatical function such as tense, aspect, mood, person, number, gender or case.

VERBS inflect for tense, aspect, mood, person and number.

TENSE: temporal anchoring, i.e. present, past, future

ASPECT: point of view, i.e. habitual, ongoing, perfective, imperfective, iterative

MOOD: ontological perspective (i.e. real/unreal, factual, certain, possible, wished, demanded)  
indicative, imperative, subjunctive

Example: the verb 'walk' (the mood is INDICATIVE)

TENSE	Present: I walk to school	Past: I walked to school
ASPECT	Habitual: I walk to school	Ongoing: I'm walking to school.
PERSON & NUMBER	1 <sup>st</sup> singular: I walk to school.	3 <sup>rd</sup> singular: She walks to school.

NOUNS may inflect for number and case

NUMBER	Singular: I brought a <b>cookie</b> .	Plural: I brought <b>cookies</b> .
CASE	Subject (Nominative): <b>Juan</b> is late.	Possessive (Genitive): <b>Juan's</b> boss is late.

PRONOUNS inflect for person, number, gender, and case.

Person, Number, Gender	Case	
	Subject (Nominative)	Object (Accusative)
1 <sup>st</sup> singular	I	me
2 <sup>nd</sup> singular	you	
3 <sup>rd</sup> singular masculine	he	him
3 <sup>rd</sup> singular feminine	she	her
3 <sup>rd</sup> singular neuter	it	
1 <sup>st</sup> plural	we	us
2 <sup>nd</sup> plural	you	
3 <sup>rd</sup> plural	they	them

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## Phonetics:

Stop. Stop & release the airflow.

Fricative. The air passes through a narrow opening.

Voiced. Voiced fricats are vibrating.

Voiceless. voiceless fricats are not vibrating.

① (PIE) voiceless stop p, t, k  
↓  
(G) voiceless fricative f, θ, x → h  
↓  
fether qathal

② (PIE) voiced stop b, d, g  
↓  
(G) voiceless stop p, t, k

③ (PIE) voiced aspirated stop b<sup>h</sup>, d<sup>h</sup>, g<sup>h</sup>  
↓  
(G) voiced stop b, d, g

Grimm's Law ①②③

### ENGL 300 Grimm's Law

Grimm's Law, also known as the First Germanic Sound Shift, is a set of statements named after Jacob Grimm and Rasmus Rask describing the Proto-Indo-European (PIE) stop consonants as they developed in Proto-Germanic - the ancestor of the Germanic branch of the Indo-European family - about 1000 BC. It posits a set of regular correspondences between early stops (pirated, voiced and voiceless) and fricatives in Germanic and other early Indo-European languages, such as Sanscrit, Latin and Greek.

Grimm's law consists of three parts which form consecutive phases in the sense of a chain shift:

1. PIE voiceless stops change into voiceless fricatives.
2. PIE voiced stops become voiceless stops.
3. PIE voiced aspirated stops become voiced stops

This chain shift (in the order 3,2,1) can be abstractly represented as:

$b^h > b > p > f$

$d^h > d > t > \theta$

$g^h > g > k > x$  (voiceless velar fricative which later became voiceless glottal fricative /h/)

$g^{wh} > g^w > k^w > x^w$

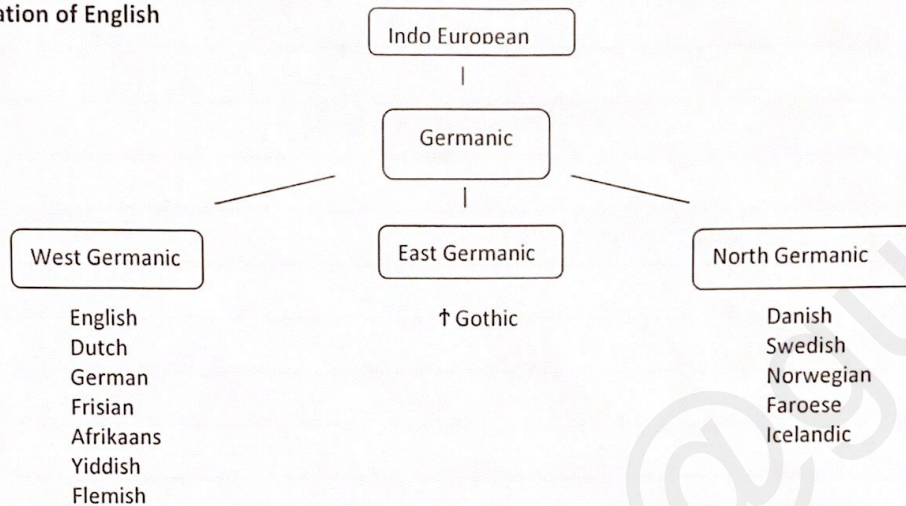
#### Examples

PIE	Proto-Germanic	English	CHANGE	Grimm's Law
*pōd	*fōt	foot	p > f	PIE voiceless stop changed into voiceless fricative.
*treyes	*þrīz	three	t > th	
*kwon	*hundaz	hound (dog)	k > h	
*kwod	*hwat	what	k <sup>w</sup> > h <sup>w</sup>	
*dekm	*tehun	ten	d > t	Voiced stop became voiceless
*b <sup>h</sup> reter	*broþer	brother	b <sup>h</sup> > b	Aspirated stop became unaspirated

The exceptions to Grimm's Law are known as Verner's Law.

## ENGL300 English as a Germanic Language Review Sheet

### Classification of English



### Features of Germanic languages common with English

1. The sound changes known as **Grimm's Law**, which shifted the Indo-European stop consonants (For example, original \*/t d dh/ became Germanic \*/θ t d/ in most cases; compare *three* with Latin *tres*, *two* with Latin *duo*, *do* with Sanskrit *dha-*.)
2. The development of a **strong stress** on the first syllable of the word, which triggered significant phonological reduction of all other syllables. This is responsible for the reduction of most of the basic English words into monosyllables, and the common impression of modern English and German as consonant-heavy languages. Examples are Proto-Germanic \*strangijō → *strength*, \*haubudan → "head", \*harubistaz → German *Herbst* "autumn."
3. Large numbers of **vowel** qualities. English is typical in this respect, with around 11–12 vowels in most dialects (not counting diphthongs). Standard Swedish has 17 vowels, standard German and Dutch 14, and Danish 11.
4. Two simple verb tenses: the **present tense** and the **past tense** (also called the **preterite**).
5. A large class of verbs that use a **dental suffix** (/d/ or /t/) instead of **vowel alternation** (Indo-European **ablaut**) to indicate past tense. These are called the **Germanic weak verbs**; the remaining verbs with vowel **ablaut** are the Germanic **strong verbs**.
6. A distinction in **definiteness** of a noun phrase that is marked by different sets of inflectional endings for adjectives, the so-called strong and weak adjectives. This distinction has been lost in modern English but was present in Old English and remains in all other Germanic languages to various degrees.
7. Core vocabulary (97% of the 100 most frequent words in the English language are Germanic, Anglo-Saxon or Norse).

27 January 2020

## Verbs Conjugation

Infinitive: senseless form

"to" - infinitive, to see, to go  
bare form see, go

Participles: Present

-ing

Past

-en

Seen, gone

\* mid term

Modes

Old English

'you' in Singular  
Pronoun

- Indicative
- Imperative
- Subjunctive

Definite article (PDE): the = invariant

in Old English, the definite article varied by:

- gender

P 98

- number



p96  
98 [ Se hund Seah pone Cyning  
The dog sees The King ]

1 The King Saw The gift

Se Cyning Seah pā gife accusative case  
fem, singular N

2 The dog Saw The stones

Se hund Seah pā stanas

3 The King Saw The ships

Se Cyning Seah pā scipu

in old English  
sc = /s/

Indo-European

Germanic  
Old English

Early Middle English

Middle English - modern English - future

29 July 2020

Verbs & ~~Conjugation~~ Conjugation

PDE word order is fixed : SVO

OE word order was free \*more flexible

Midterm  
Question

\* In Old English the word order was free, explain?

- Definite article will tell,
- was enough inflection to tell

(p96)

In Old English grammatical were

with inflectional morphology not word order.

PDE indefinite article a/an

OE No indefinite article

IC Seo ~~hond~~ "I see a dog" (p99)  
no indefinite

3rd Feb 2020

## Form

To Be : infinitive  
present. am / is / are  
past. was / were  
participle. being / been

## Usage

Lexical = exist  
Linking verb.

- Dalal is beautiful

Auxiliary.

- Dalal is listening to music ] <sup>(p106)</sup> \* wasn't in old English.

\* Old English Literature

o 'Caedmon's Hymn.'

o 'Beowulf'

# Middle English (1066-1499)

12-2-2020

History!

- ~~the~~ Normans changed everything English to French. → official language of England
- brought-out pain.
- English disappeared. → going under down
- replaced higher authorities with people speaking French \* They hated everything English
- French was the Elite

'The main ~~idea~~ idea of the Theory of Hierarchy'

- Norman Conquest bring changes to the Country  
French was the official language but the Majority spoke English.

Nounhood

↑  
- No mark for gender.

① definite article ('the').

- Lose almost all case markings. → No word order

- from free word order to fixed word order.

Language acquisition

|| Context  
Celtic language

Sociolinguist

- Learning by observing/listen  
to others!

Difficult

→ age

→ Quality input

→ Rate of education

When people acquire

△ < θ  
x

\* Read introduction  
on my post

17.2.2020

Old English

(P125)

vs.

Middle English

- Gender Marking

- no Gender Marking

- has case

- ~~lost~~ lost many case

- flexible word order

- fixed word order

- rich inflection

- less inflection

- New grammar "auxiliary"

## \* Crystallization hypothesis

- The type of Language foreigners hear when they come to you is not accurate.
- you have to simplify to communicate
- reduce grammatical complexity.

\* if I ~~never~~ get exposed to this type of form, I'll pick it up at this reduced form.

Why

Someone who speaks Language A

Someone who speaks Language B

"Pigon" ← Language C will form