

New York, 1993. Please see Sources, which can be accessed from the main lobby, for a complete list of references.)

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Chapter 0: (All subsequent notes are supplemental to our text, Baugh and Cable's *A History of the English Language*, 5th edition, and workbook, 2nd edition, Prentice Hall, New Jersey. Information not from our primary text will be referenced throughout.)

The **International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)** is "an alphabet in which there exists a one-to-one correspondence between speech sounds and symbols; the IPA is used in transcription by [those] who study language" (glossary from Thomas Murray's *The Structure of English*, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1995). We will be using a simplified version of the IPA to do broad phonetic transcriptions that will show the gross characteristics of speech, or distinctive sounds. We will not distinguish nondistinct sounds, which include off-glides (or drawls) and sounds such as [t] in *stone*, without aspiration, as opposed to *tone*, in which the [t] is aspirated.

Remember the following rules when doing phonetic transcriptions:

1. Phonetic symbols should be printed, not written in cursive.
2. Always enclose transcriptions in square brackets.
3. If transcribing a sentence, paragraph, etc., use one bracket at the beginning and one at the end. Do not use separate brackets for each word.

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CHAPTER 2: Indo-European Languages

(These notes are taken directly from and intended as supplement to our text, Baugh and Cable's *A History of the English Language*, 5th edition, Prentice Hall.)

I. Two definitions of *Indo-European*:

A. *Indo-European* refers to the hypothetical language spoken by a society that probably lived around the Ural Mountains between 5000 and 3500 B.C. Be sure you are familiar with the textual information about the culture of this society. When referring to this (or any) hypothetical language, linguists use the prefix "proto"; hence, the technical term for the language is "proto Indo-European." The theory is that many of our languages today were once dialects of this "mother tongue." The existence of Indo-European accounts for the similarity of words in such languages as French, German, Czech, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Persian, etc.

B. *Indo-European* refers also to those languages which once were dialects of the language described above and which cover a large part of Europe and part of Asia.

II. How do we get from proto Indo-European to English? We will be taking this journey this semester. The first separation that led to variation in Indo-European society is known as the **Satem-Centum split**, a sound change in the Eastern Indo-European languages affecting palatal and velar [k]. The Centum languages are Hellenic, Italic, Germanic, and Celtic.

III. The Indo-European Family Tree

(Here, I will be outlining only the most salient features of each language as pertaining to a study of the evolution of English. Again, this information is gleaned directly from our text. You will need to use the workbook, read the chapter, and listen to class lectures to complete this outline, particularly regarding geographical location and distinguishing linguistic features of each language.)

A. Indian: In this language, we find the *Veda* (1500 B.C.), the oldest literature in any I-E language. The *Veda* consists of four groups of texts, the *Rig-Veda* oldest. Vedic Sanskrit is fully declined and thus is important in reconstruction the original I-E language. **Panini**, a fourth century grammarian, gave Sanskrit a fixed literary form.

B. Iranian: Because speakers of this group probably traveled with speakers of Indian, the two languages bear strong similarities and are sometimes grouped as one. Iranian is not as pure an example of I-E because it contains elements from other, non I-E languages. This language has two main branches: **Avestan**, the language of the **Avesta**, the sacred text of the Zoroastrians (1000 B.C. for the oldest of two parts, the **Gathas**), and **Old Persian**, which has a large Arabic mixture today.

C. Armenian: Not closely linked to any other I-E language, Armenian is important to us because it shows a certain shifting of consonants analogous to **Grimm's Law** (about which you'll learn later) and lacks **grammatical gender**. The earliest example of this language is a 5th century translation of the Bible.

D. Albanian: Formerly grouped with Hellenic, this language was recognized as an independent I-E language only in the 20th century. Our knowledge of this language, which dates back only to 1500 A.D., is hampered by the fact that it contains a mixture of many other languages.

E. Hellenic: The earliest Greek literary works are the heroic **Odyssey** and **Illiad** (8th century A.D.). Though there were five principal dialect groups, **Ionic** became the most important. **Attic**, a subdialect of Ionic and the dialect of Athens, became dominant by the 5th century B.C. It became the basis of a **koine**, or common Greek dialect. The language of the New Testament, it is the basis of Byzantine literature. Today, two varieties of Greek are in existence, the **Pure**, which attempts to restore the ancient vocabulary and inflections, and **demotic**, the popular, natural language.

F. Italic: **Latin** became the dominant language of this branch. The languages that derive from Latin are known as **Romanic** or **Romance** languages. **Vulgar Latin** is the variety spoken in the streets of Rome, which is represented today by **Italian**. **Classical Latin** is a literary language with an elaborate and artificial vocabulary. The Romance languages as we know them descend not from Classical, but from Vulgar Latin. In addition to Italian, four other Romanic languages are dominant: **French**, which originally consisted of a number of dialects. The Parisian, or **Ile-de-France** dialect, became the official and literary language and, since the 13th century, has been standard French. Two main dialects named for the pronunciation of the word *yes* divide North and South France: **langue d'oc** (the language of the Troubadours, today known as Provençal) and **langue d'oïl**. The other three are **Spanish**, **Portugese**, and **Romanian**. Spanish and Portuguese are quite similar, while Romanian is the Eastern most of the Romance languages.

G. Balto-Slavic: These two language groups have enough similarities to merit their consideration as one classification and were probably nearly identical until the 7th or 8th century. The **Baltic** branch includes **Prussian** (now extinct), **Lettish** (the language of about 2 million in Latvia), and **Lithuanian**. Of these, Lithuanian is most important to a study of I-E languages because it preserves very old features. Three main divisions are **West** (Slovak, Czech, and Polish, which is the largest), **South** (Serbo-Croatian, Slovenian, and Bulgarian), and **East** (Great Russian is the largest, the official and literary language of Russia).

H. Tocharian: A wrinkle in the Satem-Centum split theory, Tocharian is a Centum (West) language which is located in Asia. This language exists only in a few fragmentary texts and is a twentieth-century addition to the I-E family.

I. Celtic: Various social forces have greatly diminished this once extensive language so that today it is spoken only by a small minority in France and the British Isles. This language consists of three main groups: **Galic**, which is the language of the Celts in Gaul who were conquered by Caesar; **Gaelic**, spoken by the earliest Celtic settlers in England and represented by Irish, Scottish-Gaelic, and Manx (extinct since WWI); and **Britannic**, represented by modern Cornish (extinct in the 18th century), Welsh, and Breton.

J. Germanic: No documents record the earliest form of this language. It has been reconstructed by philologists and is thus termed **proto-Germanic**. **Grimm's Law**, though it has been refined by Karl Verner and others and though it is still debated, accounts for certain differences and connects Germanic to the other I-E languages. Three languages descend from proto-Germanic: The **East** branch includes Danish and Swedish. The earliest remnants of the Germanic branch are in this language, a translation of the Gospels and parts of the New Testament by **Ulfilas** (311-383). The **North** branch is subdivided into a **North West** (Icelandic and Norwegian) and **North East** (Danish and Swedish) branch due to dialectical changes apparent by the 11th century. Old Icelandic

is the most literary offshoot of this branch, as a body of heroic poetry is preserved by settlers from Norway around 874. Prominent are the **Prose Edda** and the **Poetic Edda** compiled in the 12th century by **Snorri Sturluson**.

The **West** branch is of most significance to us, for it is from this branch that English descends. The West branch is subdivided into two branches due to a **Second (or High German) Sound Shift**. Analogous to Grimm's Law, this sound change entailed [p,t,k,d], which were changed to other sounds in the mountainous Southern regions, but not in the lowlands. **High German**, popularized by Luther's translation of the Bible, became the literary language of Germany. **Low German** included **Old English**, **Old Frisian** (closely related to Old English), **Old Franconian** (the basis of modern Dutch, Flemish, and Afrikaans), and **Old Saxon** (modern Low German).

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CHAPTER 3: Old English

Perhaps England has been inhabited for 50,000 years, yet English has been spoken for only 1,500.

Time Line

up to 5000 B.C. --> Paleolithic Man

2000 B.C. - 1500 B.C. --> Neolithic Man (may have been the Basques)

1500 B.C. - 500 B.C. --> Bronze Age (Celts are the first Indo European speakers in England that we know of).

55 B.C. --> Julius Caesar attacks England after conquering the Celts in Gaul. He doesn't succeed in conquering the Celts in England.

43 A.D. --> Emperor Claudius gradually conquers the Celts in England.

61 A.D. --> Celtic uprising led by Bodicae, widow of a Celtic chief.

75-85 A.D. --> Conquest was said to have been completed under the Roman governor Agricola.

410 A.D. --> Approximate date of Roman withdrawal.

449 A.D. --> Approximate date of the Germanic invasions coming from continental Denmark and the low countries. The tribes included the Angles, Jutes, Saxons and Frisians. We have this date and know a little about their culture through Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, completed in 731. The entries in the Chronicle indicate only in a general way the succession of settlements which extended over a century. We know that the nature of the Germanic invasion was different from the Roman one, as the former displaced the Celts, while the latter ruled them.

Anglo-Saxon Civilization

This civilization was founded on **comitatus** relationship between lord and theign, and it was organized according to **earls** and **ceorls**. In times, various tribes combined and allied in small kingdoms, seven of which were eventually recognized as the **Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy**. The Heptarchy included Mercia, East Anglia, Northumbria, Kent, Essex, Sussex and Wessex. Of these, Wessex became the dominant, first under the Egbert (800-839) and more prominently under **King Alfred (871-889)**.

Language

The various dialects spoken by the Germanic tribes are known as **Pre-Old English**. The