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COURSE PAPER

Theme:

"GENEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES"

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Germanic languages.

The history of English language has been reconstructed on the basis of written records of different periods. The earliest texts in English are dated back to 7th c.A.D.; the earliest records in other Germanic languages to the 3rd or 4th A.D. But to say where the English language came from one must learn some facts of the prewritten history of the Germanic group.

Certain information about the early stages of English and Germanic history can be found in the works of ancient historians, especially Roman. They contain the description of Germanic tribes, personal names and place-names.

English language belongs to the Germanic group of languages, which is one of the twelve groups of the Indo-European linguistic family. The history of the Germanic group begins with the appearance of what is known as the Proto-Germanic language which split from the **Proto-Indo-European** tongues between 15th and 10th c. B.C.

The common ancestral (reconstructed) language is called Proto-Indo-European. It probably originated in the area north of the Black Sea. The various subgroups of the Indo-European family include:

- Indo-Iranian languages
- Italic languages (including Latin and its descendants, the Romance languages)
- Germanic languages
- Celtic languages
- Baltic languages
- Slavic languages
- Illyrian languages
- Albanian language (and extinct cousins)
- Anatolian languages (extinct, most notable was the language of the Hittites)
- Tocharian languages
- Greek language
- Armenian language

As the Indo-Europeans spread over a larger territory, the ancient Germans moved further north than other tribes and settled on the southern coast of the Baltic Sea. Proto-Germanic has never been recorded. In the 19th c. it was reconstructed by the methods of comparative linguistics from written records. Towards the beginning of our era Germanic divided into dialectical groups which later developed into separate languages.

East Germanic. The East Germanic subgroup was formed by the tribes who returned from Scandinavia at the beginning of our era. The most powerful of them were Goths. Around 200 A.D. they moved south-east and reached the basin of Danube /'dʒnʒub/, where they made attacks on the Eastern Roman Empire, Byzantium /bi'zʒntiem/. The Gothic language, now dead, has been preserved in written records of the 4th-6th c. The Goths were the first to become Christians. In the 4th c. Ulfilas, a West Gothic bishop, made a translation of the Gospels from Greek into Gothic using a modified form of the Greek alphabet. A manuscript of

about two hundred pages made in 5th-6th c. has been preserved and is kept now in Sweden. Ulfillas" Bible is the earliest example of the text in the language of the Germanic group. It represents a form of language very close to PG.

North Germanic. The Teutons who stayed in Scandinavia after the departure of Goths gave rise to the North Germanic subgroup of languages. They didn't take part in the migrations and were relatively isolated. The speech of these tribes showed little dialectical variation until the 9th c. and is regarded as Old North language. It has come down to us in runic inscriptions dated from the 3rd to the 9th c. The runes were used by North and West Germanic tribes.

Runes. Runes are also called Futhark, which actually is an analogue to our "alphabet", in that f, u, th, a, r, and k are the first 6 Runic letters, while alpha and beta are the first 2 Greek letters. Why this order? It must have had some mnemonic function that was not preserved. (Just like why aleph, beth, and gimmel are the first 3 letters in Phoenician/Ugaritic). Runes have always been seen as possessive of mystical properties in the popular culture. One possible etymology of the word rune is the Germanic word *run-, meaning "to conceal", "a secret". This meaning can be explained the following way: at first runes were used as a sacred writing system, and later became not only the magic, but also the civilian script. The first Runic inscriptions appeared around 200 AD, but its origins may lie much deeper in the pre-history of Northern Europe. For the next thousand years it was used in Germany, Scandinavia, England, and Lowlands, and only in late Middle Ages it was replaced by the Roman script everywhere in Northern Europe. This alphabet was used in ancient Rome and was later adopted practically everywhere in Western and Central Europe. It is also called Latin, for it was first introduced by Latin tribes who founded Rome. Runes usually were inscribed on metal, stone or wood boards, this is the reason for their strange sharp forms. The most ancient of the inscriptions found is the one from Norway written on the edge of the spear in about 200 AD. Since the alphabet, which was probably invented in Scandinavia, was spreading to the British Isles and to continental Europe, its symbols changed somehow, as well as the number of them. Modern science makes a distinction between the Elder Runes (up to the 9th century), and the later Younger Runes, or Scandinavian Runes. A special variety existed in Anglo-Saxon England from the 7th to the 10th century. The Elder Runes, used mostly for magic purposes, contain many personal names and their lexicon is sometimes hard to understand, though the language is clear. We know about 150 runic inscriptions of this period, and some of them contain just one or two symbols. The Younger inscriptions are more numerous (about 3500), and are mostly documents written in particular Germanic languages. There is the Anglo-Saxon variety of Scandinavian Runic alphabet. The Runic poem written in alliterative style explains the meaning of each rune.

Old North split into separate dialects after the 9th c. in the famous Viking Age, when the Scandinavians started their raids because of the overpopulation of the fjord areas. The linguistic division into separate languages was due to the political

division into Sweden, Denmark and Norway

The earliest written records in **Old Danish**, **Old Norwegian** and **Old Swedish** date from the 13th c. In addition to the three languages on the mainland, the North Germanic subgroup includes two more languages: **Icelandic** and **Faroese**, whose origin goes back to the Viking Age. In the Faroe Islands the West Norwegian dialects brought by the Scandinavians developed into separate language called Faroese, which nowadays is spoken by 30000 people. Iceland was practically uninhabited at the time of the first settlements. (9th c.) Their West Germanic dialect grew into an independent language, Icelandic. As compared with other North Germanic languages Icelandic has retained a more archaic system, that is why the study of Old Icelandic literature takes a central place for philologists. Modern Icelandic is very much like Old Icelandic and Old North. At present it is spoken by 200000 people. Old Icelandic written records date from the 12th and 13th c., of which the most important are:

- 1) **Younger Edda** - a textbook for young poets written by **Snorri Sturluson**,
- 2) **Elder Edda** - a collection of heroic songs of the 12th c.,
- 3) **Old Icelandic sagas** - the retellings of Scandinavian history and folktales in narrative form.

Jafnan er hálfsoð saga, ef einn segir.

A tale is but half told, when only one person tells it.

(Grettis saga - The Saga of Grettir the Strong)

All Old Icelandic texts are written in the Icelandic alphabet which of course has its origins in the common Roman-type alphabet used throughout most of the western world, but the Futhark Runes have also had their considerable influence on its appearance. All those accents over the vowels and the "þ", the "ð" and the "Æ" have a profound influence on how Icelandic text looks like. First texts written in Old Icelandic date back to XII c. In XIIIc. Skaldic poetry - the collection of poems by the poets some of whom lived in IX c. was written down. These poems came down to us as quotations in the textbook of skaldic art called Younger Edda and composed by Snorri Sturluson. Snorri was a famous Icelandic scholar, poet and politician. The book has three parts. The first part gives the description of the mythological world. The second contains the commentary on the use of the poetic language and its devices among which the most representative is **kenning**

In the song in honour of konnung Harald kennings help to create a specific poetic code which is hard to decipher without the knowledge of the clues:

Hilmir reð a heiði,	Князь решил на пустоши
Hjaldrseiðs, þrimu, galdra	Битвы трески в сражение заклинания
Oðr við æskimeiða	Непримеримый к жаждущему древу
Ey vebrautar, heyja	Всегда священного пути вступить;

Aðr gnapsolar Gripnis	До того как <i>возвышающегося солнца Грпнира</i>
Gnystærandi foeri	<i>Шума укрепитель</i> повел
Rausnarsamr til rimmu	Великолепный в битву
Riðviggs lagar skiðum.*	<i>Верхового жеребца моря лыжи</i>
(IXc.)	(line-to-line translation)

If we decipher all the kennings the meaning will be as following:

Конунг, всегда непримиримый к мужу (т.е. врагу), сражался на пустоши, до того как муж (т.е. он сам) повел, великолепный, корабли в бой.

Конунг- *hilmir - от hjalm 'шлем' т.е. наделяющий дружинников шлемами.

Lagar skið - лыжи моря

In the lines discussed we find two complicated kennings meaning 'man' or 'warrior':

1)

Hjaldr-seiðs; ve-brautar	galdra	æski-meíða
треска битвы	священная дорога	заклинание жаждущее древо

Жаждущее древо заклинания священного пути трески битвы

Thus we have: Треска битвы→меч, дорога меча→ щит, заклинание щита→ битва, жаждущее древо битвы→ муж

2)

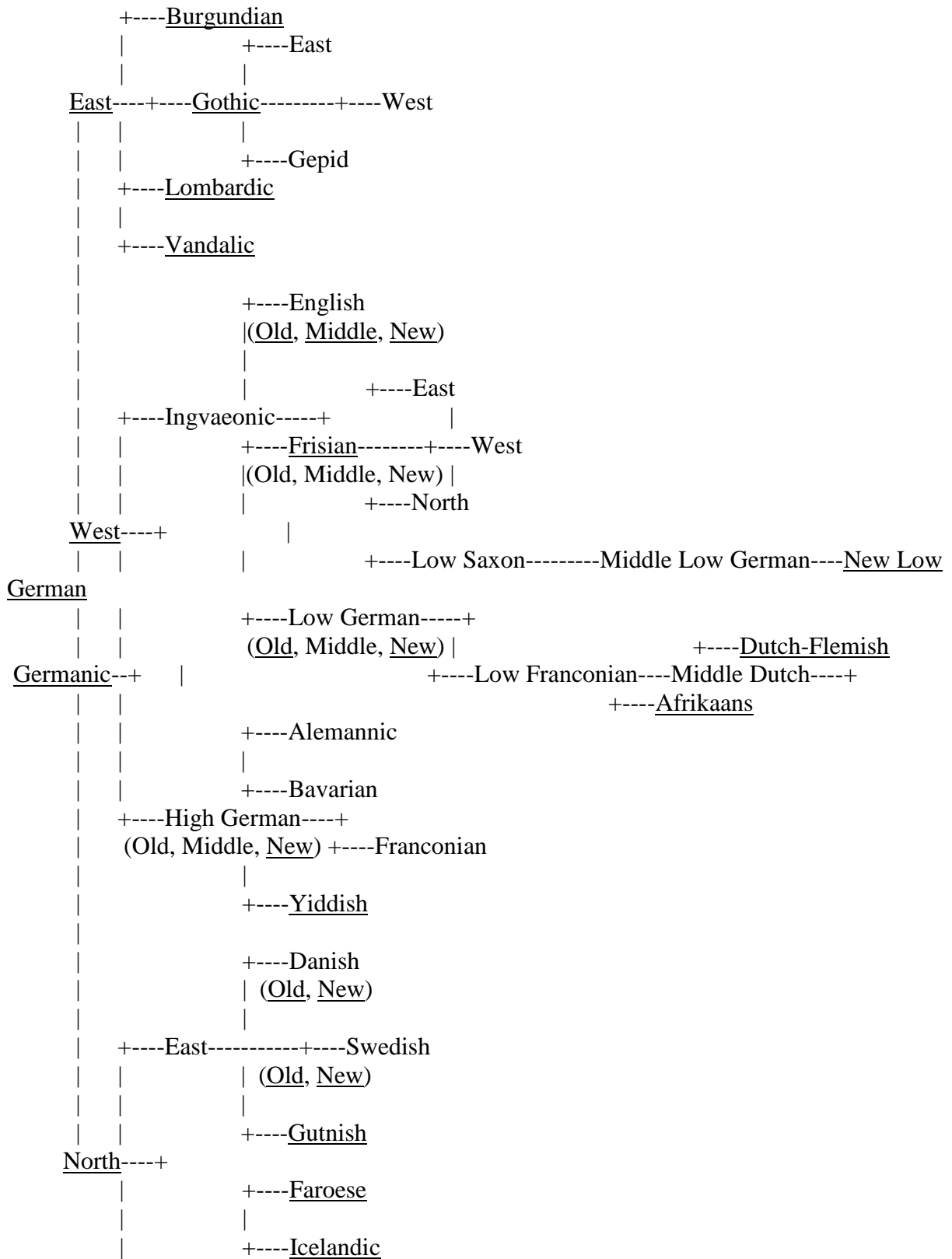
Gripnis rið-viggs	gnap-solar	gny-stærandi
верховой жеребец Грпнира	возвышающееся солнце	укрепитель шума

Укрепитель шума возвышающегося солнца верхового жеребца Грпнира

Which again stands for: верховой жеребец Грпнира → корабль, возвышающееся солнце корабля→ щит, шум щита→ битва, укрепитель битвы→ муж

Tree of Germanic Languages

The Germanic Languages are a branch stock of the Indo-European Languages. This stock itself branches out as shown below.



SEVEN DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES

Germanic became different from the other Indo-European language groups in seven main ways:

1. The Indo-European verbal system was simplified. Indo-European distinctions of tense and aspect (indicates whether an action or state is viewed with regard to beginning, duration, incompleteness, etc.) were lost except for the present and preterite (past) tenses. These two tenses are still the only ones indicated by inflection in Modern English; future and perfect tenses are expressed in phrases--e.g., *I will have gone*, etc.
2. Germanic developed a preterite tense (called weak or regular) with a dental suffix, -d or -t (e.g. *fish, fished*, etc.). Germanic languages thus have two types of verbs, weak (regular) and strong (irregular). Strong verbs indicate tense by an internal vowel change (e.g. *swim, swam, swum*). The weak form is the living method of inflection, and many originally strong verbs have become weak.
3. Germanic developed weak and strong adjectives. The weak declension was used when the modified noun was preceded by another word which indicated case, number, and gender. The strong declension was used in other situations. These declensions are no longer found in modern English, but compare these examples from Old English: *þa geongan ceorlas* 'the young fellows' and *geonge ceorlas* 'young fellows.' (The weak adjective ends in -an while the strong adjective ends in -e.)
4. The Indo-European free accentual system allowed any syllable to be stressed. In Germanic the accent (or stress) is mainly on the root of the word, usually the first syllable.
5. Several Indo-European vowels were modified in the Germanic languages. For example, Indo-European /a:/ became /o:/. Compare Latin *mater* and Old English *modor*.
6. Two consonant shifts occurred in Germanic. In the First Sound Shift (commonly known as Grimm's Law) the Indo-European stops *bh, dh, gh, p, b, t, d, k*, and *g* underwent a series of shifts. The Second Sound Shift (also known as the High German Sound Shift) affected the high but not the low Germanic languages, so English was not affected.
7. Germanic has a number of unique vocabulary items, words which have no known cognates in other Indo-European languages. These words may have been lost in the other Indo-European languages, borrowed from non-Indo-European languages, or perhaps coined in Germanic. Among these words are Modern English *rain, drink, drive, broad, hold, wife, meat, fowl*.

Language Descriptions

Afrikaans

Afrikaans is a contemporary West Germanic language developed from seventeenth century Dutch. It is one of the eleven official languages of the Republic of South Africa.

"Although Afrikaans derives from Dutch, it was also influenced by Malay (spoken by the slaves in the 17th century) and the indigenous African languages. The first recognizable form of Afrikaans was apparently spoken by the Malay people of the Cape in the 17th/18th century." - Johan Viljoen

Number of speakers (1988): 10 million

Burgundian

Burgundian was the East Germanic language of the Germanic speaking people who ultimately settled in southeastern Gaul (Southeastern France, Western Switzerland, and Northwestern Italy) in the fifth century C.E. It is extinct.

Dutch-Flemish

Dutch or Flemish is the contemporary descendent of Middle Dutch. With slight differences, the same language is called Dutch in the Netherlands and Flemish in Belgium. It is one of the two official languages of the Netherlands and one of the three official languages of Belgium.

Number of Speakers (2000): 20 million

East Germanic

The East Germanic branch of the Germanic languages was spoken by the Germanic speaking people who, in the second through fourth centuries C. E., migrated first to the Danube and Black Sea areas from the Germanic homeland. The languages of these people, which are poorly attested except for West Gothic, show characteristic differences from West and North Germanic branches.

The East Germanic Languages were Gothic, Vandalic, Burgundian, Lombardic, Rugian, Herulian, Bastarnae, and Scirian. It is said that the East Germanic languages were probably all very similar.

All of the East Germanic languages are extinct.

East Norse

East Norse is the eastern branch of the North Germanic languages used in Denmark and Sweden and their present and former colonies. It diverged from common North Germanic about 800 C. E. Its descendents were Danish, Swedish, and Gutnish.

Faroese

Faroese is a contemporary Western North Germanic language spoken in the Faroe Islands. It is a descendant of West Norse.

Number of Speakers (1988): 41,000

Frankish

Frankish is the extinct West Germanic language formerly spoken in Northern Gaul and the Low Countries. It was largely swamped by the Latin-derived French. However Low Franconian, an approximate ancestor of Dutch-Flemish, was closely related to Frankish.

Frisian

Frisian is a contemporary West Germanic language spoken in the Netherlands and Germany. It is one of the two official languages of the Netherlands. Of all Germanic languages, Frisian is most closely related to English.

Frisian from the earliest records of about 1300 until about 1575 is called Old Frisian. Subsequently Frisian is known as New Frisian. Some Frisian scholars also identify a Middle Frisian period from about 1600 to about 1800.

Frisian exists in three major divisions, each of which is subdivided into dialects. The two dialects of East Frisian have been largely replaced by dialects of New Low German which are called East Frisian. North Frisian is divided into about ten dialects. Nearly all modern Frisian literature is in West Frisian which has about six dialects.

Number of Speakers (1988): **TBS**

Germanic

The Germanic branch of Indo-European is a *centum* language, characterized by systematic change in initial stops, a stress accent on the first syllable of the root, by the productive use of ablaut in verbs, by the use of a dental suffix in verb morphology, and by the use of strong and weak adjective conjugations.

The linguistic and archaeological data seem to indicate that the final linguistic stage of the Germanic languages took place in an area which has been located approximately in Southern Sweden, Southern Norway, Denmark and the lower Elbe. Around the year 1000 B. C., the Germanic tribes spread to the lower Weser and Oder and around 750 B. C. they reached the Vistula river.

During their expansion the Germanic tribes, who spoke an Indo-European language, mixed with other European tribes (the so-called Streitaxe- or Battle-axe people), who spoke another, unknown, language.

This tree shows the traditional division of Germanic into East, North, and West, however the relationship between East and North Germanic and the principle branches of West Germanic leads many scholars to divide all Germanic into five equal-weight branches (clockwise from the north): North, East, Elbe, Rhine-Weser, and North Sea Germanic. Elbe Germanic corresponds roughly with High German; Rhine-Weser with Low Germanic; and North Sea with Anglo-Frisian Germanic. Wanderings of the Germanic tribes, especially during the Völkerwanderung period (400-700 CE), permitted much mixing of the dialects.

About 80 percent of Germanic roots are non-Indo-European.

Living Germanic Languages

- Afrikaans
- Danish
- Dutch-Flemish
- English
- Faroese
- Frisian
- High German
- Gutnish
- Icelandic
- Low German
- Norwegian
- Swedish
- Yiddish

Extinct Germanic Languages

- Bastarnae
- Burgundian
- Frankish
- Gothic
- Herulian
- Lombardic
- Norn
- Rugian
- Scirian
- Vandalic

Gothic

Gothic was the East Germanic language of the Germanic speaking people who migrated from southern Scania (southern Sweden) to the Ukraine. From there the West and East Goths migrated to southern Gaul, Iberia, and Italy in the fifth and

sixth centuries C. E. The Gepids were overcome by the Lombards and Avars in the fifth century and disappeared.

Gothic is recorded in translations of parts of the bible into West Gothic in the fourth century C. E. and by names.

Gothic is extinct. The last Gothic speakers reported were in the Crimea in the sixteenth century C. E.

Gutnish

Gutnish is a contemporary Eastern North Germanic language spoken on the island of Gotland. It is first attested in legal documents of the fourteenth century C. E. Some authorities consider Gutnish to be merely a dialect of Swedish.

Icelandic

Icelandic is the contemporary language of Iceland. It is a very conservative descendent of West Norse. Frequently Old Icelandic (c. 800 BCE - 1500 CE) is referred to as Old Norse. It is the language of the Norse sagas and eddas. It is said that many Icelandic readers are able to read this literature without much difficulty.

Number of Speakers (1988): 250,000

Lombardic

Lombardic was the East Germanic language of the Germanic speaking people who invaded and settled in Italy in the sixth century C. E. It is said that Lombardic participated in the so-called second sound shift which is primarily attested in High German.

Lombardic is extinct.

Middle English

Middle English was the descendent of Old English. English after about 1100 C. E. had changed enough to warrant a different designation. Middle English had about five major dialects, Northern, West Midlands, East Midlands, Southwestern, and Kentish.

Middle English is characterized by the reduction and loss of inflectional endings and the introduction of a large number of words derived first from Latin through Norman or Middle French and subsequently from Middle Dutch. By the late fifteenth century, East Midlands Middle English, the language of London, had acquired enough changes to be designated Early New English, the language of Mallory (Le Morte d'Arthur).

New Danish

New (or Modern Danish) is the contemporary descendent of Old Danish. It is the official language of Denmark.

Number of Speakers (1988): 5 million

New English

New (or Modern) English is the contemporary descendent of Middle English. It is the official language of Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, It is the standard language of the United States. It is one of the official languages of Canada, India, the United Nations, and many other nations.

New English is characterized by a very large vocabulary, non-phonetic spelling, an almost total lack of inflection (most plurals of nouns are indicated), a syntax almost totally dependent on word order, and a very complicated periphrastic verb system.

Number of speakers (2000): 341 million (first language), circa 3 billion total.

New High German

New (or Modern) High German is the contemporary descendent of Middle High German. It is the official language of Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. There are multiple extant dialects of High German.

High German partakes of the so-called second sound shift.

Number of Speakers (2000): 110 million

New Low German (Plattdeutsch)

New (or Modern) Low German (Plattdeutsch) is the contemporary descendent of Middle Low German. It is spoken on the North German plain in Germany and the Netherlands. The name Low Saxon is preferred in the Netherlands. There are multiple extant dialects of Low German.

Although Low German is frequently referred to as 'a dialect of German', it has linguistic roots which reach back at least as far as High German.

Number of Speakers: *1.5 to 2.0 million*

New Swedish

New Swedish is a contemporary Eastern North Germanic language, a descendent of Old Swedish. It is the official language of Sweden and is one of the official languages of Finland.

Number of Speakers (1988): 9 million

Norn

Norn was a mixed language of West Norse and Irish spoken in the Shetland Islands. It is extinct.

There is extant an entire ballad text in Norn, *Hildina-kvadet*.

It is described in an article: *Hildina-kvaedet. Ein etteroeknad og ei tolking.* by Eigil Lehmann. It is printed in: *Fra Fjon til Fusa 1984. Arbok for Hordamuseet og for Nord- og Midhordland sogelag.*

Hildina-kvadet was written down in 1774 by the Scot George Low. He got it from a farmer - Guttorm - at the Shetland island Foula. Low did not understand the language, so the song will have to be "translated" into - well, whatever. What Lehmann does, is to try to reconstruct the Norn version of the song.

Lehmann's preface contains a bibliography, translated here by Reidar Moberg:

"The song was printed as early as 1808 by James Headrick, in 1838 by the Norwegian P.A. Munch. Others, who have been working on this kvad, is the Dane Svend Grundtvig, the Norwegian Sophus Bugge, Jakob Jakobsen from the Faeroe Islands, the Norwegian Moltke Moe and the Dane Axel Olrik. These have mostly tried to bring the kvad back to old Norse. Such a reconstruct from Axel Olrik from 1898 could be found in a work on the kvad of the Dane Hakon Grüner-Nielsen in the honour book to Gustav Indrebo 1939. The most thorough work is done by the Norwegian Marius Haegstad in the book *Hildina-kvadet* from 1900."

North Germanic

The North Germanic branch of the Germanic languages is spoken by the Germanic speaking people who stayed in northern part of the Germanic homeland. Between about 800 C. E. and 1000 C. E., the dialects of North Germanic diverged into West Norse and East Norse.

A characteristic of the North Germanic languages is the use of a postposed definite article.

Norwegian

Norwegian, a contemporary Western North Germanic language, is the official language of Norway. It is a collection of related dialects of West Norse. It has two major written dialects: Nynorsk and Bokmal. Nynorsk is the contemporary descendent of Old Norwegian. Bokmal, also called Dano-Norwegian or Riksmal, is really a form of Danish. Since 1951 there has been a concerted effort to effect a merger of the two dialects.

Number of Speakers (1988): 5 million

Old English

Old English (or Anglo-Saxon) is the oldest recorded form of English. It is said to be the language of the three tribes (Angles, Saxons, and Jutes) of West Germanic speaking people who invaded and occupied Britain in the fifth century C. E. It is very closely related to Old Frisian.

Old English developed four major dialects: Northumbrian, Mercian, West Saxon, and Kentish. The majority of recorded Old English is in the West Saxon dialect.

Old English is characterized by phonetic spelling, a moderate number of inflections (two numbers, three genders, four cases, remnants of dual number and instrumental case), a syntax somewhat dependent on word order, and a simple two tense, three mood, four person (three singular, one plural) verb system.

Old English is recorded from the late seventh century onwards. By about 1100 C. E. enough changes had accumulated so that the language is designated Middle English.

Old Danish

Old Danish was an Eastern North Germanic language, spoken in Denmark, the ancestor of New Danish and Bokmal.

Old Low German

Old Low German consisted of a pair of West Germanic languages, spoken along the North Sea coast and somewhat inland, Old Saxon and Low Franconian. Old Saxon was the ancestor of Middle Low German and New Low German. Low Franconian was the ancestor of Middle Dutch and Dutch-Flemish. Low Franconian is probably a lineal or collateral descendent of the collection of ancient West Germanic dialects called Frankish.

Old Swedish

Old Swedish was an Eastern North Germanic language attested in about 2000 runic inscriptions of the eleventh and twelfth centuries C. E. Its contemporary descendant is New Swedish.

Vandalic

Vandalic was the East Germanic language of the Germanic speaking people who invaded Gaul, Iberia, and Africa. They founded a kingdom in Africa in the fifth century C. E. Vandalic is extinct.

West Germanic

The West Germanic branch of the Germanic languages is spoken by the Germanic speaking people who occupied the southwestern part of the Germanic homeland. The languages of these people show characteristic differences from the East and North Germanic branches.

The West Germanic Languages are Afrikaans, Dutch-Flemish, English, Frisian, Low German, and High German.

Groupings of the West Germanic Languages vary. The grouping shown in the tree is derived from Campbell, wherein Old English, Old Frisian, and Old Saxon are grouped as Ingvaemonic languages and Old High German is shown separated. Baldi groups English and Frisian as Anglo-Frisian and High and Low German as German. In any case English and Frisian are agreed to be very closely related. English and Frisian share sound changes which do not occur in German. The Ingvaemonic languages do not partake of the High German or second sound shift.

The whole West Germanic language area, from the North Sea far into Central Europe, is really a continuum of local dialects differing little from one village to the next. Only after one has travelled some distance are the dialects mutually incomprehensible. At times there are places where this does not occur, generally at national borders or around colonies of speakers of other languages such as West Slavic islands in eastern Germany. Normally the local national language is understood everywhere within a nation. The fact of this continuum makes the tracing of the lines of historical development of national languages difficult, if not impossible.

West Norse

West Norse is the western branch of the North Germanic languages used in Iceland, Ireland, Norway, the Hebrides, Orkney, Shetland, and the Faroe Islands. It diverged from common North Germanic about 800 C. E. Its living descendents are Norwegian, Icelandic, and Faroese.

Terminology for varieties of West Norse is vexed. Old Icelandic & Old Norwegian are sometimes called Old West Norse, with Danish and Swedish being Old East Norse. Other sources refer to Old Icelandic as Old Norse.

Yiddish

Yiddish is a contemporary descendant of Middle High German which existed in two main dialects, West Yiddish and East Yiddish. It developed in Germany in approximately 1050 CE and spread eastward into Poland and Russia. It contains an admixture of German, Romance, Hebrew-Aramaic, and Slavic. West Yiddish is said to be extinct. Eastern Yiddish is spoken in Israel, the United States, Latin America, and Russia.

Number of Speakers (2000): 20 million.

West Germanic

English / Old English (11th c.)

Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum;
Si þin nama gehalgod
to becume þin rice
gewurþe ðin willa
on eorðan swa swa on heofonum.
urne gedæghwamlican hlaf syle us todæg
and forgyf us ure gyltas
swa swa we forgyfað urum gyltendum
and ne gelæd þu us on costnunge
ac alys us of yfele soþlice.
(Corpus Christi College MS 140, ed. Liuzza (1994))

Frisian

Us Heit yn 'e himel,
lit jo namme hillige wurde,
lit jo keninkryk komme,
Lit jo wil dien wurde
op ierde likegoed as yn 'e himel.
Jou ús hjoed ús deistich brea
en ferjou ús ús skulden
sa't wy ús skuldners ek ferjûn hawwe;
en lit ús net yn fersiking komme,
mar ferlos ús fan 'e kweade;
[want jowes is it keninkryk
en de krêft
en de hearlikheid
oant yn ivichheid. Amen.]
(*Bibel: út de oarspronklike talen op' e nij yn it Frysk oerset*, 1995)

Old Saxon (The Heliand, 9th c.)

Fadar úsa firiho barno,
thu bist an them hôhon himila rîkea,
geuûhid sî thîn namo uuordo gehuulico.
Cuma thîn craftag rîki.
Uuerða thîn uuilleo obar thesa uuerold alla,
sô sama an erðo, sô thar uppa ist
an them hôhon himilo rîkea.
Gef ús dago gehuulikes rîd, drohtin the gôdo,
thîna hêlaga helpa, endi alât ús, hebenes uuard,
managoro mênsculdio, al sô uue ôðrum mannum dôan.
Ne lât ús farlêdean lêða uuihti
sô forð an iro uuilleon, sô uui uuirðige sind,
ac help ús uuiðar allun ubilon dâdiun.
(*Heliand und Genesis*, lines 1600-1612, ed. Behagel (1984))

The Heliand: Translation

Father of us, the sons of men,
You are in the high heavenly kingdom,
Blessed be Your name in every word.
May Your mighty kingdom come.
May Your will be done over all this world--

just the same on earth as it is up there
in the high heavenly kingdom.
Give us support each day, good Chieftain,
Your holy help, and pardon us, Protector of Heaven,
our many crimes, just as we do to other human beings.
Do not let evil little creatures lead us off
to do their will, as we deserve,
but help us against all evil deeds.
Contributor: G. Ronald Murphy, S. J.

Dutch

Onze Vader in de hemel,
uw naam worde geheiligd,
uw koninkrijk kome,
uw wil geschiede,
op aarde zoals in de hemel.
Geef ons heden ons dagelijks brood
en vergeef ons onze schulden
zoals ook wij anderen hun schulden hebben vergeven,
en stel ons niet op de proef
maar verlos ons van de duivel.
(*Groot Nieuws Bijbel*, 1989)

Afrikaans

Ons Vader wat in die hemel is,
laat u Naam geheilig word;
laat u koninkryk kom;
laat u wil ook op die aarde geskied,
net soos in die hemel.
Gee ons vandag
ons daaglikse brood;
en vergeef ons ons oortredings
soos ons ook dié vergewe
wat teen ons oortree;
en laat ons nie in die versoeking kom nie
maar verlos ons van die Bose.
(*Die Bybel*, 1983)
Contributor: Daniel M. Murray

Bavarian

Insa vâdar im himö,
ghâiligt soi werdn dâi' nãm.
Dâi' ràich soi kema,
dâi' wuin soi gsche gn,
wia-r-im himö, aso àf dar eadn.
Gib ins hàind insa täglis broud,
und vargib ins insar schuid,
wia-r-à mia dene vagebm,
dé an ins schuidig wordn sãn.
Und fiar ins nét in d vasuachung,
sundan darles ins vom ibö.
Contributor: Klaus M. Zimmer

Low German (Plattdeutsch)

Unse Vader in'n Himmel!
Mak din Nam herrli un hillig ock bi uns!

Help du uns ock dorto, dat du gans unse Herr warst!
Din Will schall dörchstahn bi uns up de Eer
grad so as bi di in'n Himmel!
Giff uns vundag dat Brod, dat wi hüt nödi hebbt!
Un denn vergiff uns unse Schulden,
grad so as wi vergewen hebbt de Minschen,
de uns wat schüllli sünd.
Un help dorto, dat wi nich to Fall kamt!
Ja, mak uns frie un redd uns vun dat Böse!
Denn din is dat Riek un de Kraft un de Herrlikeit
in Ewikeit. Amen

(Dat ole un dat Nie Testament in unse Moderspraak, 1980)

Contributor: Andrew Howey <ajhowey@ix.netcom.com>

Pennsylvania Dutch

Unseh Faddah im Himmel,
dei nohma loss heilich sei.
Dei Reich loss kumma.
Dei villa loss gedu sei,
uf di eaht vi im Himmel.
Unseh tayklich broht gebb uns heit.
Un fagebb unseh shulda,
vi miah dee fagevva vo uns shuldich sinn.
Un fiah uns naett in di fasuchung,
avvah hald uns fu'm eevila.
Fa dei is es Reich, di graft, un di hallichkeit in ayvichkeit. Amen.

(Es Nei Teshtament)

Contributor: Sally W. Cowan <cowans@calib.com>

Alsatian

Unser Vadder wo im Himmel isch
Heilig sei dinner Nämme
Din Reich soll komme
Dinner Wille soll geschehn
Wie im Himmel au uf de Ard
unser däjlich Brot gib uns hit
un vergib uns unseri Schulde
wie mir au denne vergebe wo uns schuldig sinn
un loss uns nitt in Versuchung komme
àwwer màch uns frei von àllem wàs schlecht isch. Amen.

Contributor: Paul Adolf

Standard German

Vater unser im Himmel,
Geheiligt werde dein Name.
Dein Reich komme.
Dein Wille geschehe, wie im Himmel so auf Erden.
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute.
Und vergib uns unsere Schuld,
wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern.
Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,
sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.

Denn Dein ist das Reich und die Kraft und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit. Amen.

(Gotteslob, 1975)

Contributor: Martin Bretterklieber <Martin.Bretterklieber@s.knpleykam.com>

Unser Vater im Himmel,

dein Name werde geheiligt,
dein Reich komme,
dein Wille geschehe
wie im Himmel, so auf der Erde.
Gib uns heute das Brot, das wir brauchen.
Und erlaß uns unsere Schulden,
wie auch wir sie unseren Schuldnern erlassen haben.
Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,
sondern rette uns vor dem Bösen.
(*Die Bibel: Altes und Neues Testament*, 1980)

Yiddish

North Germanic

Icelandic

Faðir vor, þú sem er á himnum.
Helgist þitt nafn, til komi þitt ríki,
verði þinn vilji, svo á jörðu sem á himni.
Gef oss í dag vort daglegt brauð.
Fyrirgef oss vorar skuldir,
svo sem vér og fyrirgefum
vorum skuldunautum.
Og eigi leið þú oss í freistni,
heldur frelsa oss frá illu.
[Því að þitt er ríkið, mátturinn og dýrðin
að eilífu amen.]
Contributor: Jón Arnar Jónsson <jonarnar@mmedia.is>

Faroese

Norn (Orkney)

[At Chris Pinette's [Languages of the Bible](#) site]

Norwegian

Norwegian bokmål

Fader vår, du som er i himmelen!
La ditt navn holdes hellig.
La ditt rike komme.
La din vilje skje på jorden
som i himmelen.
Gi oss i dag vårt daglige brød.
Forlat oss vår skyld,
som vi òg forlater våre skyldnere.
Led oss ikke inn i fristelse,
men frels oss fra det onde.
[For riket er ditt, og makten og æren i evighet. Amen.]

(*Det nye testamente. Ny oversettelse av 1975*. Oslo: Det Norske Bibelselskaps Forlag, 1975.)

Contributor: Jon Grepstad, [The Norwegian Language Council](#)

Norwegian nynorsk

Fader vår, du som er i himmelen!
Lat namnet ditt helgast.

Lat riket ditt koma.
Lat viljen din råda på jorda
som i himmelen.
Gjev oss i dag vårt daglege brød.
Forlat oss vår skuld,
som vi òg forlet våre skuldmenn.
Før oss ikkje ut i freisting,
men frels oss frå det vonde.
[For riket er ditt, og makta og æra i all æve. Amen.]

(*Det nye testamentet. Ny omsetjing 1975.* Oslo: Det Norske Bibelselskaps Forlag, 1975)
Contributor: Jon Grepstad, [The Norwegian Language Council](#)

Danish

Vor Fader, du som er i Himlene!
Helliget vorde dit navn;
komme dit rige;
ske din vilje
på jorden, som den sker i Himmelen;
giv os i dag vort daglige brød;
og forlad os vor skyld,
som også vi forlader vore skyldnere;
og led os ikke ind i fristelse;
men fri os fra det onde;
[thi dit er Riget og magten og æren i evighed! Amen]
(*Bibelen: Den Hellige Skrifs Kanoniske Bøger*, 1988)

Swedish

Vår fader, du som är i himlen.
Låt ditt namn bli helgat.
Låt ditt rike komma.
Låt din vilja ske,
på jorden så som i himlen.
Ge oss i dag vårt bröd för dagen som kommer.
Och förlåt oss våra skulder,
liksom vi har förlåtit dem som står i skuld till oss.
Och utsätt oss inte för prövning,
utan rädda oss från det onda.
[Ditt är riket. Din är makten och äran i evighet.]
(*Nya testamentet*, 1981)
Contributor: William Lundin <wistan@algonet.se>
Fader vår, som är i himmelen!
Helgat varde ditt namn;
tillkomme ditt rike;
ske din vilja
såsom i himmelen så ock på jorden;
vårt dagliga bröd giv oss i dag;
och förlåt oss våra skulder,
såsom ock vi förlåta dem oss skyldiga äro;
och inled oss inte i frestelse,
utan fräls oss ifrån ondo
[ty riket är ditt och makten och härligheten i evighet.]
(*Bibeln*, 1917)
Contributor: William Lundin <wistan@algonet.se>

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