

BASICS OF THE THEORY OF ENGLISH

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Dord



ough – 9

every 2 hours

supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis

A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed

THE HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

LECTURE 1

Languages are symbol systems, highly susceptible to change.

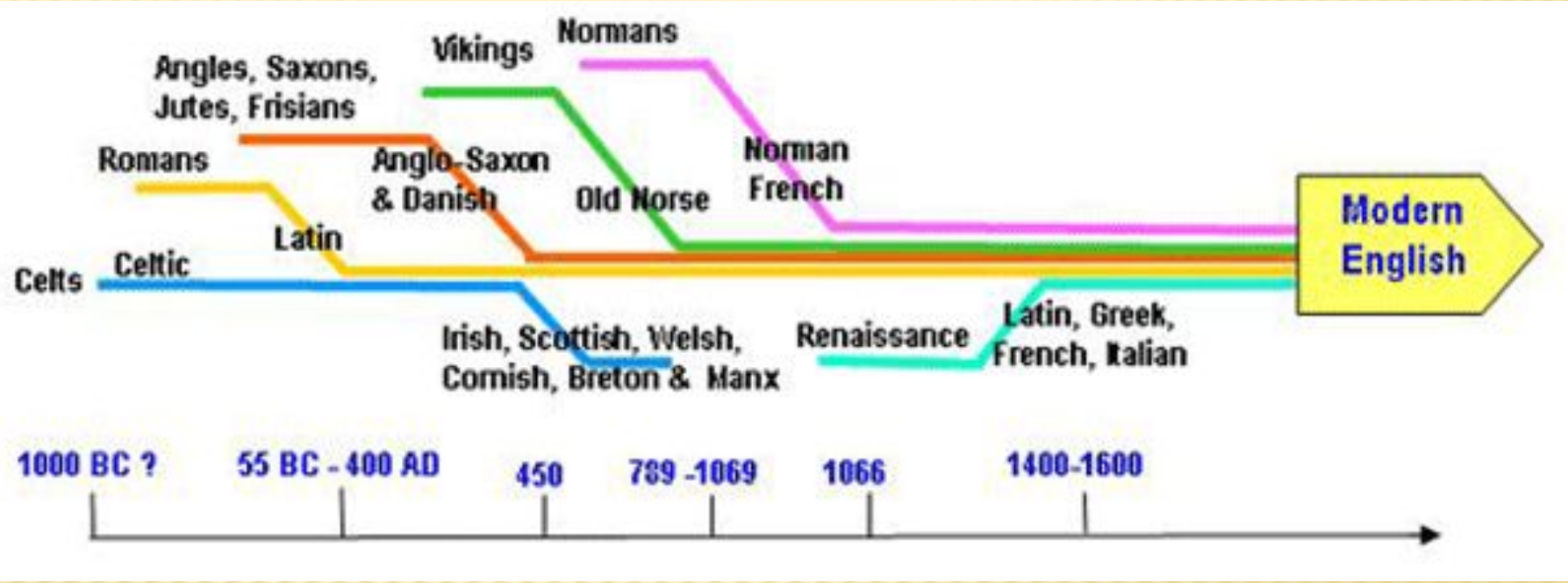
Language change is one of the subjects of **HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS**.

Diachronic linguistics – **historical linguistics**

Diachronic approach is often used in contrast to **synchronic**, a term referring to the study of a language (or languages) at a single point in time, without reference to earlier (or later) stages.

A list of Old English words of about 1,000 years ago and their modern English equivalents:

Old English	Modern English
hūs	house
mūs	mouse
ūt	out
hū	how



Modern English

1000 BC ? 55 BC - 400 AD 450 789 - 1069 1066 1400-1600

Linguistics traditionally distinguish three major periods in the English language development:

- 1) the Old English (OE) period (5th to 11th century);
- 2) the Middle English (ME) period (11th to 15th);
- 3) the New English (NE) period (15th century to present).

English belongs to Anglo-Frisian sub-group of the West Germanic branch of the Germanic languages, a member of the Indo-European languages.

Modern English is the direct descendant of ME, itself a direct descendant of OE, a descendant of the Proto-Germanic language.

Typical of most Germanic languages, English is characterized by the use of modal verbs, the division of verbs into strong and weak classes, and common sound shifts from Proto-Indo-European known as **Grimm's law**

	one	two	three	four	five	six	seven	Mother	heart	hear
Proto-Germanic , c. 0 AD	ainaz	twai	θri:z	feḏwo:r	fimf	sehs	seβun	Mo:ðe:r	herto::	hauzijan ā
West Germanic , c. 400 AD	ain	twai	θriju	fewwur	fimf	sehs	seβun	mo:dar	herta	haurijan
Late Old English , c. 900 AD	a:n	twa:	θreo	feowor	fi:f	siks	sěövon	mo:dor	hěörte	he:ran, hy:ran
(Late Old English spelling)	<i>(ān)</i>	<i>(twā)</i>	<i>(brēo)</i>	<i>(fēowor)</i>	<i>(fif)</i>	<i>(six)</i>	<i>(seofon)</i>	<i>(mōdor)</i>	<i>(heorte)</i>	<i>(hēran, hȳran)</i>
Late Middle English , c. 1350 AD	ɔ:n	two:	θre:	fowər	fi:və	siks	sevən	mo:ðər	hertə	hɛ:rə(n)
(Late Middle English spelling)	<i>(oon)</i>	<i>(two)</i>	<i>(three)</i>	<i>(fower)</i>	<i>(five)</i>	<i>(six)</i>	<i>(seven)</i>	<i>(mother)</i>	<i>(herte)</i>	<i>(heere(n))</i>
Early Modern English , c. 1600 AD	o:n >! wʊn	twu: > tu:	θri:	fo:r	fəiv	siks	sevən	mʊðər	hert	he:r
Modern English , c. 2000 AD	wʌn	tu:	θri:	fɔ:(r)	faiv	sɪks	sevən	mʌðə(r)	hart/ha:t	hi:r/hie

In 1786, Sir William Jones wrote: “Both the Gothic and the Celtic, though blended with a very different idiom, have the same origin with Sanskrit.”

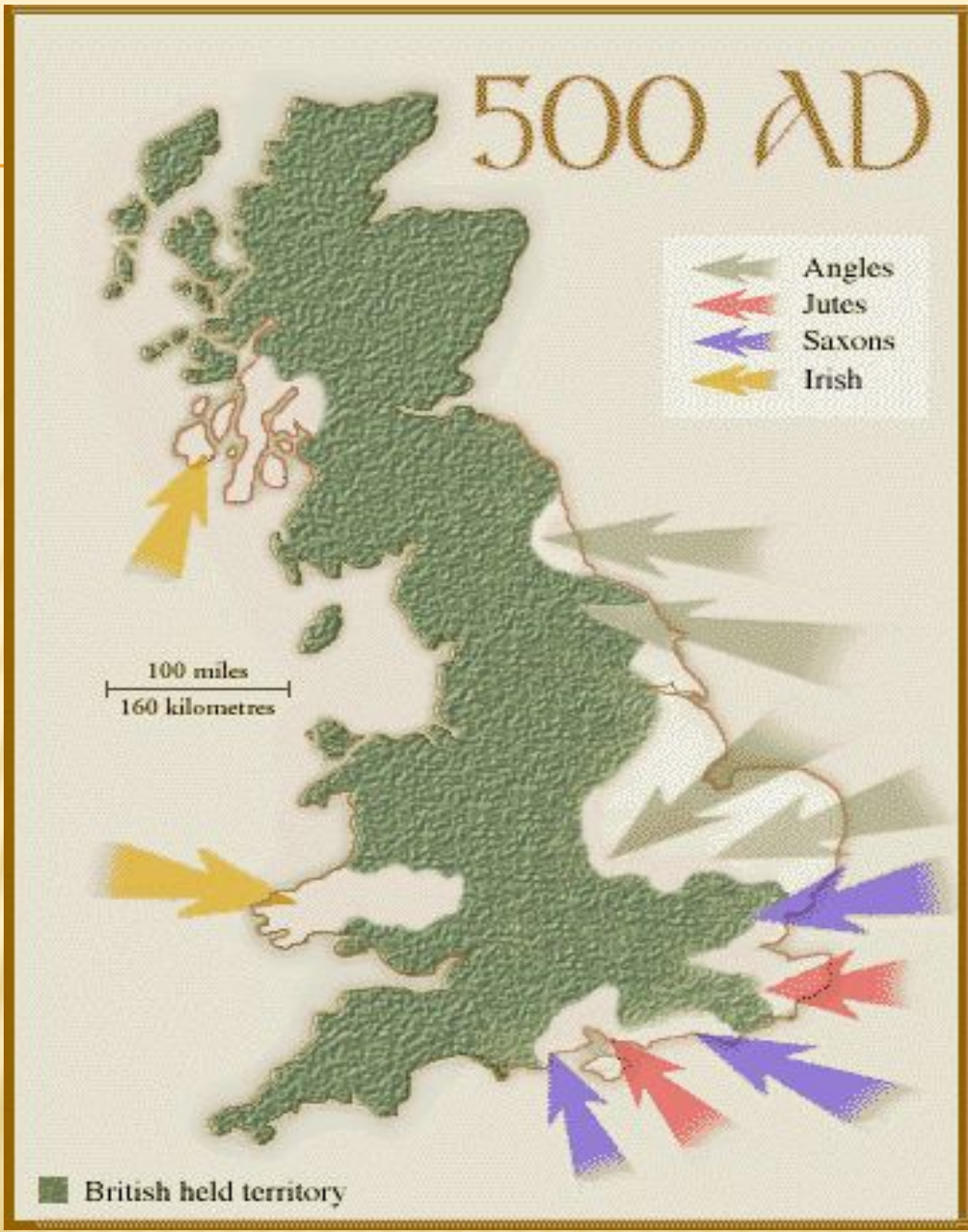
Sanskrit is certainly one of the older attested members of the family of languages out of which come all the languages of Europe and many in Asia.

Sanskrit was an inflected language which relied on changes at the ends of words (inflections) to indicate **grammatical functions** in **nouns** (through case and number) and **verbs** (through person, tense and mood). **Germanic** formed a subgroup of the Western Indo-European family — as did Celtic and Hellenic. Germanic further divided itself into three smaller groups: **East Germanic**, now extinct; **North Germanic** — the Scandinavian languages, Old Norse in sum; and **West Germanic** — Dutch, German, Frisian and **English**, the last two of which were closely connected.

Old Germanic languages are divided into 3 major branches:

Group	Languages	Tribal groups
Eastern	Gothic	Vendils (vandals, goths)
Northern	Scandinavian languages (Old Northern → Old Swedish, Old Norwegian, Old Icelandic, Old Danish)	Gillevisions (Sweons, Danes, Gauts)
Western	Old High German, Old Angles, Old Saxonian, Lower Frankish, Frisian	Ingvaeones (Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Tevtons, Cimbri, Jutland peninsula); Istaevoones (Frankish tribes along the Rhine), Hermiones (Alemanni, Swabians, Langobards; to the east of the Rhine)

500 AD



The **Angles, Saxons and Jutes** had not brought a script with them. They used runes. The runic alphabet (called the “futhorc,” named after the first letters of the runic alphabet, just as our “alphabet” is from the first letters of the Greek alphabet) was made up of symbols formed mainly of straight lines, so that the letters could be carved into wood or bone.

FUTHARK (RUNIC) CIPHER													
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K = <	T = ↑			
ƒ	ᛃ	<	ᛞ	ᛞ	ƿ	χ	ᚲ	ᚩ	N = †	E = ᛞ			
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	I =	M = ᛞ			
ᚷ	<	ᚦ	ᛞ	†	ᚷ	ᚫ	<	ᚫ	G = X	P = ᚫ			
S	T	U	W	Z	th	ei	ng	R	H = N	L = ᚦ			
ᚷ	↑	ᚦ	ᚦ	Υ	†	ᚷ	◇	ᚫ	T = ↑	A = ƒ			
									S = ᚷ	R = ᚫ			

ƿ	ᚲ	†	ƒ	ᚫ	<	X	ᚦ
f	u	th	a	r	k	g	w
ᚲ	†		ᚷ	ᚷ	ᚫ	Υ	ᚷ
h	n	i	j	ae	p	z	s
↑	ᛃ	ᛞ	ᛞ	ᚦ	◇	ᚷ	ᚷ
t	b	e	m	l	ng	d	o

RUTHWELL CROSS NEAR DUMFRIES

Runes were capable of poetry, as can be seen on the eighth-century Ruthwell Cross near Dumfries in Scotland, which shows events from the life of Christ. This best equipped them for short practical messages. They are represented in the solutions to some of the Exeter Riddles.



THE RUTHWELL CROSS
Dates from Anglo-Saxon times: destroyed during the conflicts which followed the Reformation: lay in the earthen floor of this Church from 1642 – 1790: erected in the manse garden in 1823: sheltered here and declared a Monument under The Ancient Monuments Act in 1887.