

Introduction to English Linguistics

8: Indo-European and Germanic



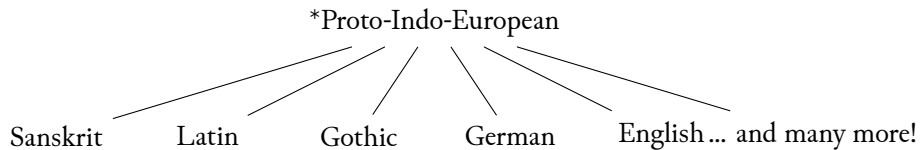
P. S. Langeslag

The Indo-European Languages

Cognates

Sanskrit	Latin	Gothic	German	English
pitar-	pater	fadar	Vater	father
*	pellis	fill	Fell	fell
grha	hortus	gards	Garten	garden
dvau	duo	twai	zwei	two
dasa	decem	taihun	zehn	ten

Postulating an Ancestral Language



(radical simplification; cf. next slide)

The Indo-European Language Family (Full View)

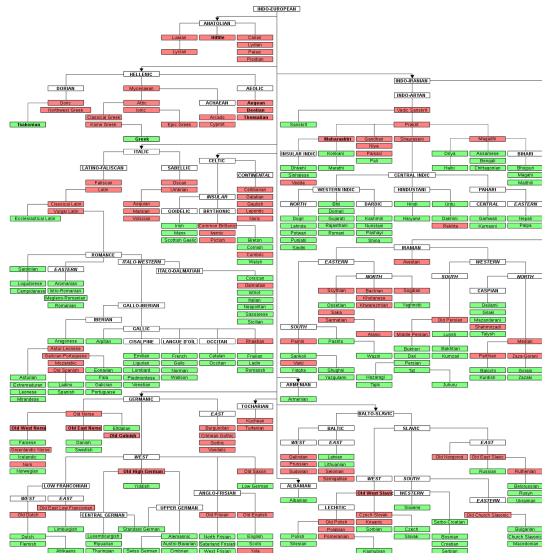


Figure: Indo-European Family Tree (CC-BY-SA WMC user Mandrak et al.)

The Indo-European Language Family (1/3)

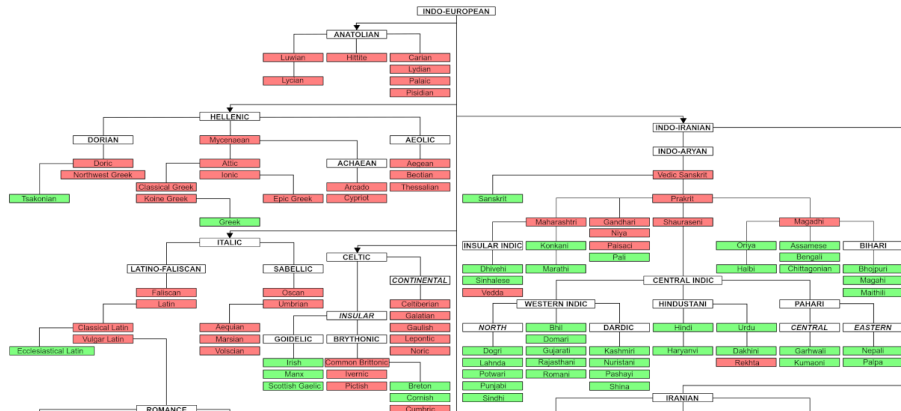


Figure: Indo-European Family Tree (detail; CC-BY-SA WMC user Mandrak et al.)

The Indo-European Language Family (2/3)

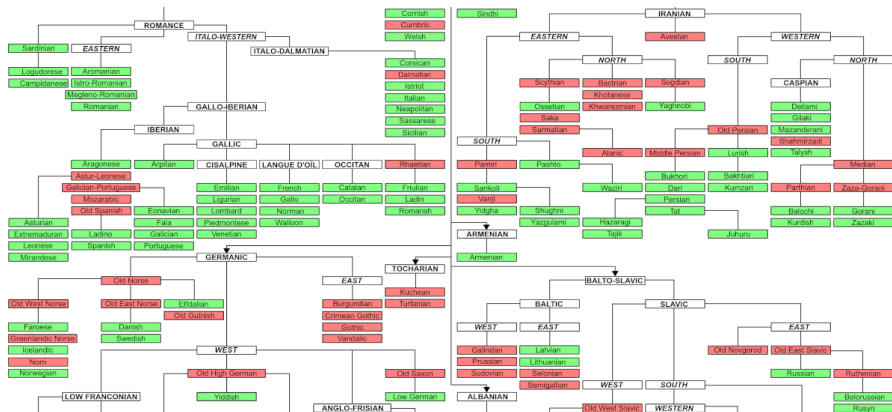


Figure: Indo-European Family Tree (detail; CC-BY-SA WMC user Mandrak et al.)

The Indo-European Language Family (3/3)

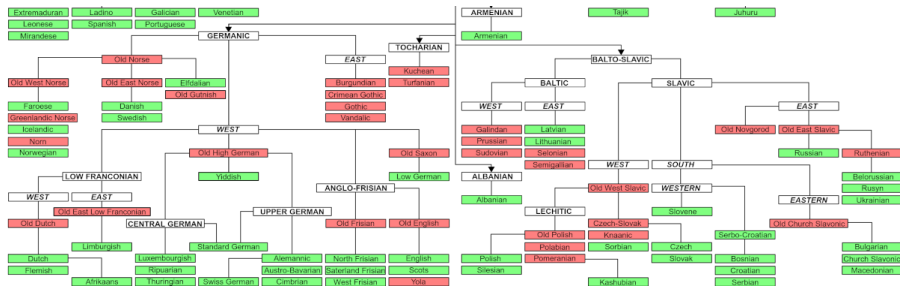


Figure: Indo-European Family Tree (detail; CC-BY-SA WMC user Mandrak et al.)

The Indo-European Territory Today

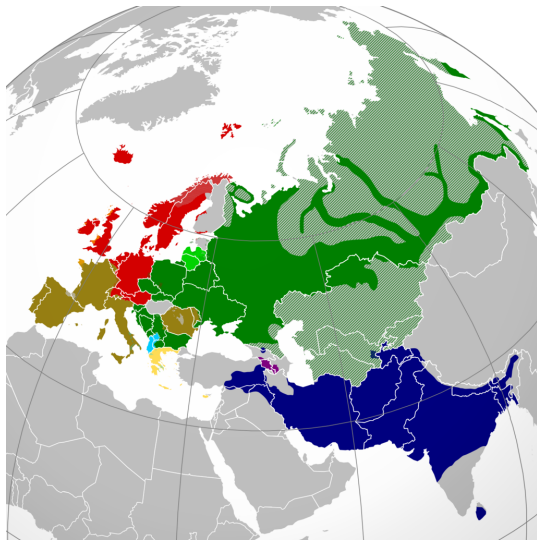


Figure: The Branches of Indo-European (CC-BY-SA WMC user Hayden120 et al.)

The Dissemination of Indo-European

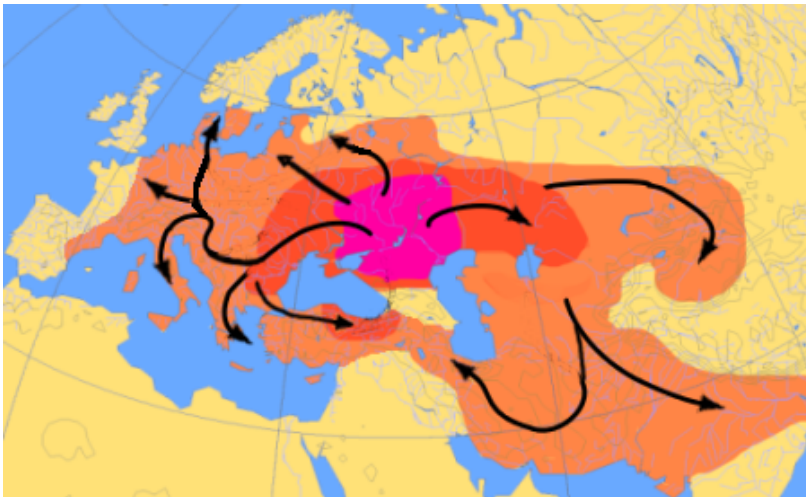


Figure: Indo-European Expansion (CC-BY-SA WMC user Dbachmann)

“The Proto-Indo-Europeans”?

We should take care not to conflate

- ▶ Language and (other aspects of) culture;
- ▶ Ethnicity;
- ▶ Territory.

These may overlap for a time, and strengthen each other when they do, but they are always free to go their separate ways.

The Centum/Satem Isogloss

Sanskrit	śatám
Avestan	satəm
Lithuanian	šim̃tas
Old Church Slavonic	sŭto
Latin	centum
Greek	hekatón
Old Irish	cēt
Middle Welsh	cant
English	hundred
Tocharian	känt

Table: The realization of dorsal consonants in some Indo-European languages

The Centum/Satem Isogloss



Figure: Centum/Satem-Distribution Today (CC-BY-SA WMC user Dbachmann)

The Germanic Languages

A Word of Caution About Tacitus

Word Stress

(Proto-)Indo-European

Free word stress: the stressed syllable depends on a word's inflection.

(Proto-)Germanic

Root stress: it is always the root syllable that is stressed, regardless of inflection.

Regularity

Sanskrit	Latin	Gothic	German	English
pitar-	pater	fadar	Vater	father
*	pellis	fill	Fell	fell
grha	hortus	gards	Garten	garden
dvau	duo	twai	zwei	two
dasa	decem	taihun	zehn	ten

Grimm's Law

aspirated stops	voiced	→	voiced stops	→	voiceless stops	→	voiceless fricatives
b ^h		→	b	→	p	→	f
d ^h		→	d	→	t	→	θ
g ^h		→	g	→	k	→	x
			edere	→	etan		
			ager	→	æcer		
					piscis	→	fisc
					frater	→	brōþor
					pater	→	fæder

Verner's Law

aspirated stops	voiced	→	voiced stops	→	voiceless stops	→	voiceless fricatives
b ^h		→	b	→	p	→	b
d ^h		→	d	→	t	→	d
g ^h		→	g	→	k	→	g
				→	s	→	r
if immediately preceded by IE word stress:				→	p	→	f
				→	t	→	θ
				→	k	→	x
				→	s	→	s
				→	<u>fr</u> ater	→	brōþor
				→	pa <u>ter</u>	→	fæder

Some Aspects of Proto-Indo-European Phonology

- ▶ /b/ extremely rare
- ▶ /p/ frequent
- ▶ /s/ the only certain fricative

Grammatical Alternation

Verner's Law explains alternation between e.g.

- ▶ *h* and *g*
 - ▶ German zie*h*en, zog
- ▶ *s* and *r*
 - ▶ MnE *I was*, *we were*
 - ▶ OE *frēosan*: *ic frēas*, *wē fruron* (cf. English *freeze*, German *frieren*)
 - ▶ OE *cēosan*: *ic cēas*, *wē curon* (cf. English *choose*, German *küren*)
- ▶ *ð* and *d*
 - ▶ OE *snīðan*: *ic snāð*, *wē snidon* (cf. German *schneiden*, *schnitt*)
- ▶ *f* and *b*
 - ▶ OE *hebban*, *hōf* (cf. German *heben*, MnE *heave*)

Germanic Developments: Distinction Strong/Weak Verbs

Strong

Tense formation characterized by gradation of the stem vowel:

- ▶ Ich sehe ihn / I see him / ég sé hann
- ▶ Ich sah ihn / I saw him / ég sá hann
- ▶ Ich habe ihn gese~~h~~en / I have seen him / (ég hef séð hann)

Weak

Tense formation characterized by a dental suffix:

- ▶ Ich höre ihn / I hear him / ég heyri hann
- ▶ Ich hörte ihn / I heard him / ég heyrði hann
- ▶ Ich habe ihn gehört / I have heard him / ég hef heyr~~t~~ hann

Germanic Developments: Strong/Weak Adjectives

Strong

Gut e s Bier	First word in a phrase
Gut e Könige	First word in a phrase

Weak

Das gut e Bier	Preceded by definite article
Die gut e n Könige	Preceded by definite article

Origins

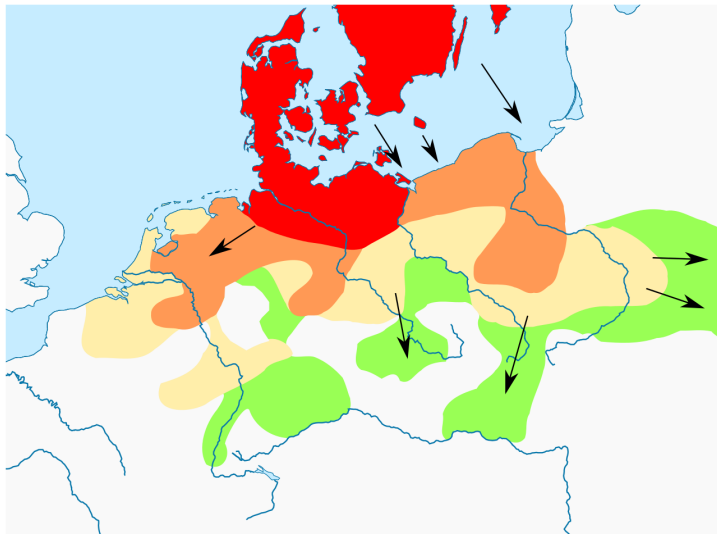


Figure: The spread of Germanic c. 750 BCE–c. CE 200 (CC-BY-SA WMC user Berig)

The Germanic Language Family

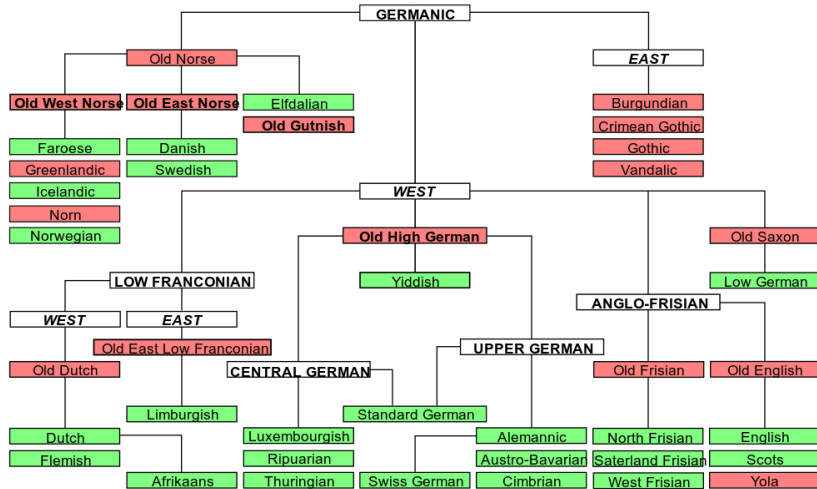


Figure: Germanic Family Tree (CC-BY-SA WMC user Mandrak et al.)

Early Germanic

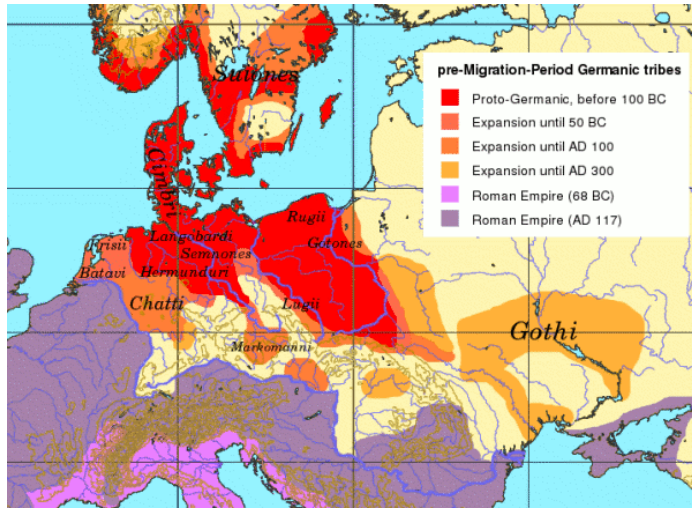


Figure: Germanic prior to c. CE 300 (CC-BY-SA WMC user Dbachmann)

Gothic

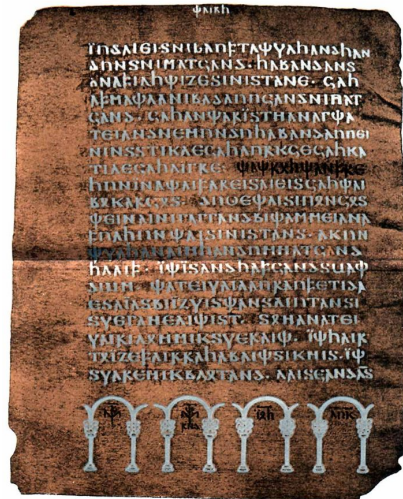


Figure: Codex Argenteus (public domain / WMC)

Spread of East Germanic



Figure: Southern Europe c. CE 476 (CC-BY-SA WMC user Guriezous)

North Germanic

Postposed Article

- ▶ *inn maðr / maðrinn* “the man”
- ▶ *et universitet* “a university”
- ▶ *universitetet* “the university”

Middle Voice (Reflexive/Reciprocal/Passive Uses)

- ▶ *berjask*; cf. German *sich streiten*
- ▶ *Jag kallas Erik* “I am called Erik”
- ▶ *Vi ses* “See you”

Germanic Dialects c. 1 CE (Traditional View)

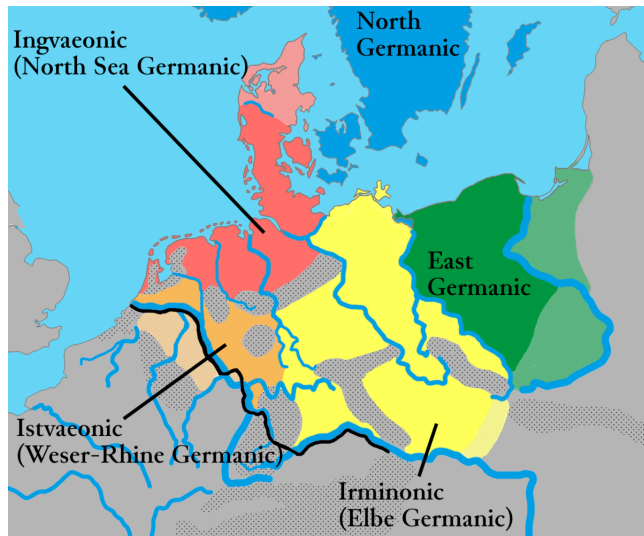


Figure: Germanic Dialects c. 1 CE (CC-BY-SA WMC user AKAKIOS)

The *limes germanicus*

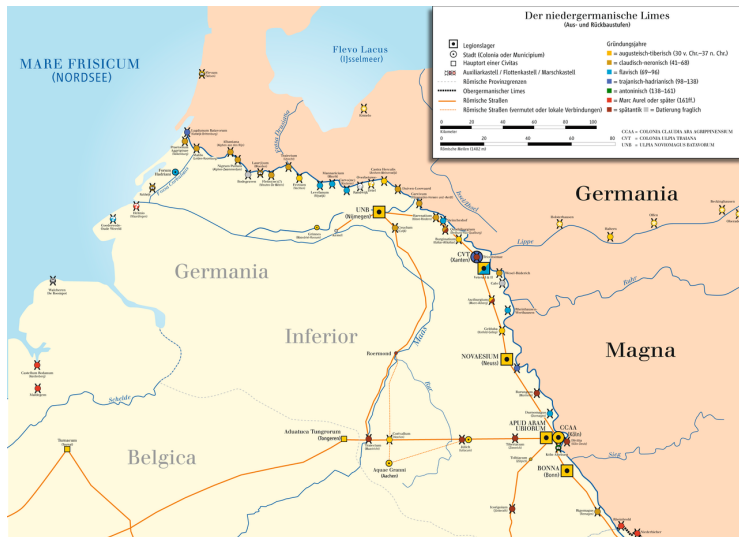


Figure: Lower *limes germanicus* to c. 200 CE (CC-BY-SA WMC user Ziegelbrenner)

The Franks

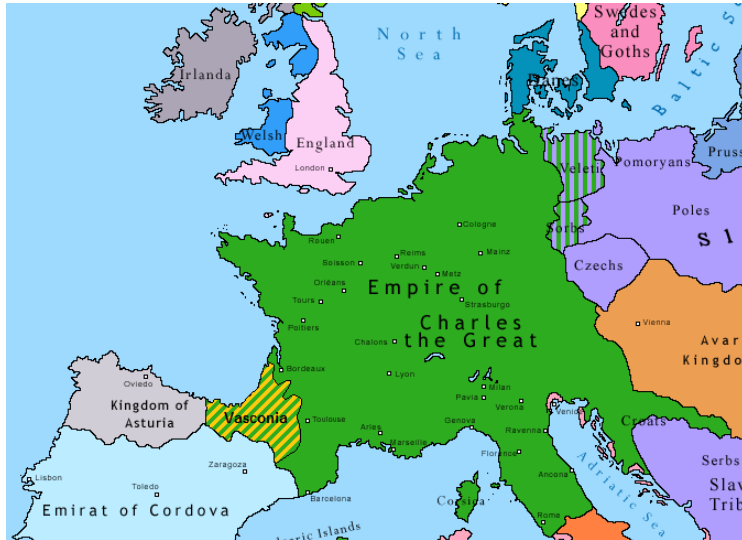


Figure: Carolingian Empire c. 814 CE (public domain / WMC user Bukkia)

West Germanic

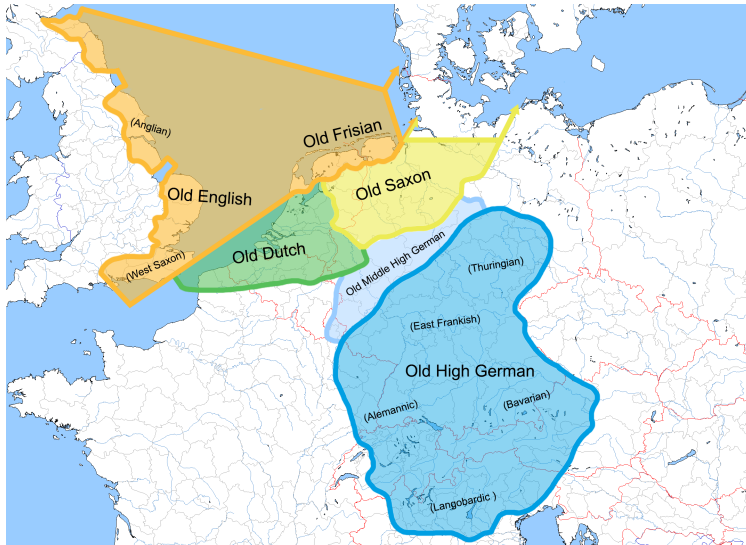


Figure: West Germanic c. 500 CE (CC-BY-SA WMC user AKAKIOS)

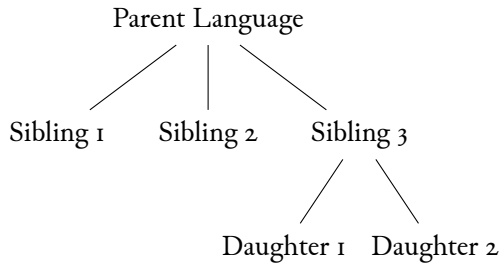
High German Consonant Shift

/p/ after vowels	→	/ff/ <ff>
/t/ after vowels	→	/ss/ <zz>
/k/ after vowels	→	/xx/ <hh/ch>
/p/ initially, after /lmnr/, or geminated	→	/pf/ <pf>
/t/ initially, after /lmnr/, or geminated	→	/ts/ <z>
/k/ initially, after /lmnr/, or geminated	→	/kx/ <ch/kh>
/d/ in some cases	→	/t/
/b/ mostly in geminates	→	/p/
/g/ mostly in geminates	→	/k/

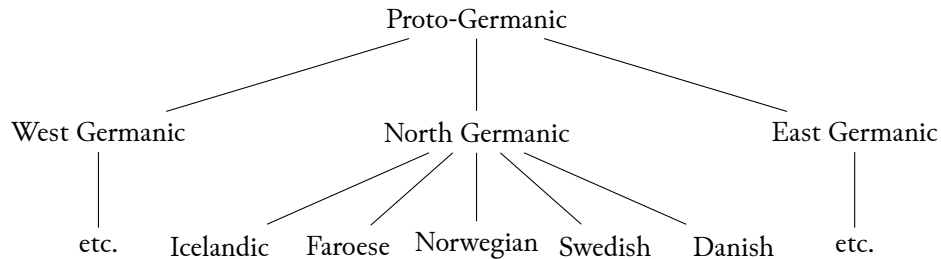
High German Consonant Shift

PG	OS	OE	PDE	OHG	German
pō-	apo	apa	ape	affe	Affe
*etan	etan	etan	eat	essen	essen
*makōn	makōn	macian	make	mahhōn	machen
*apala-	appul	æppel	apple	apful	Apfel
*twai	twā	twā	two	zwei	zwei
*daga-	dag	dæg	day	tacg	Tag
*rebja-	ribbi	ribb	rib	rippi/ribbi	Rippe

Language Families? The Tree Model



Language Families? The Tree Model



Dialect Continua? The Wave Model

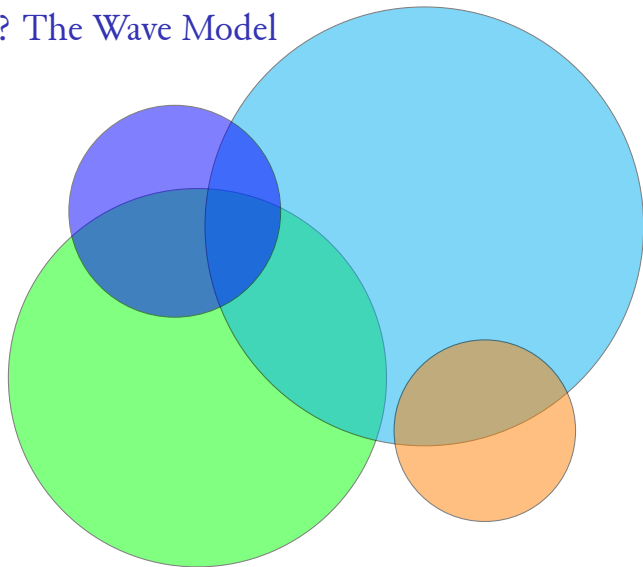


Figure: Each circle represents a feature or group of features, more pervasive at the centre than in the periphery; the background represents a dialect continuum.