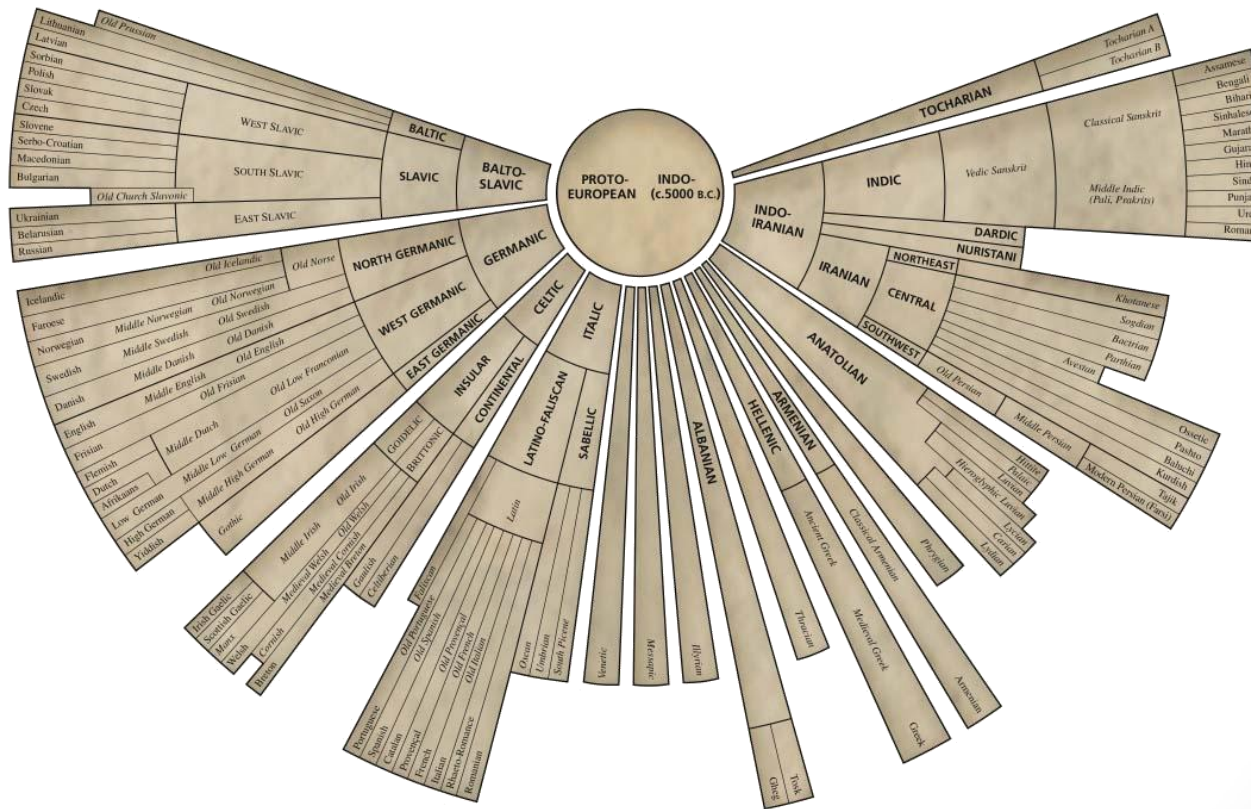


Algeo Ch. 4

1. The Backgrounds of English



Key Terms part I: The Ancestors

Prehistoric Languages	Features of PIE	Language Characteristics
Proto-Indo-European (PIE)	Satem & Centum	Isolating or isolative
Sir William Jones, 1799	IE Language Families	Agglutinative
Nostratic Hypothesis	Cognates	Incorporative
Non-Indo-European Language Families	Grammatical Inflection (Roots & Stems)	Inflective
Comparative Method & Hypothetical Reconstruction	Word Order & Grammatical Universals	
The asterisk*		

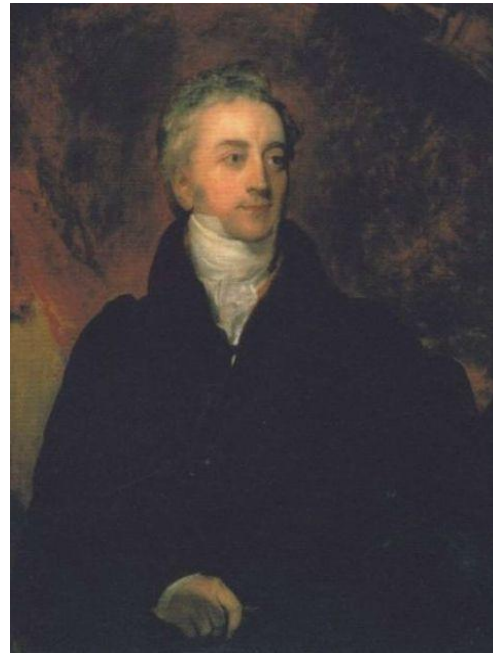
Typologies of Language

- Language as *isolating* (each idea expressed by a separate word, usually monosyllabic)
- Language as *agglutinative* (building words by sticking syllables together)
- Language as *incorporative* (putting a group of meaning and syntax elements together in a single word): Meh! Doh!
- Language as *inflectional* (putting grammatical signals on morphemic roots)

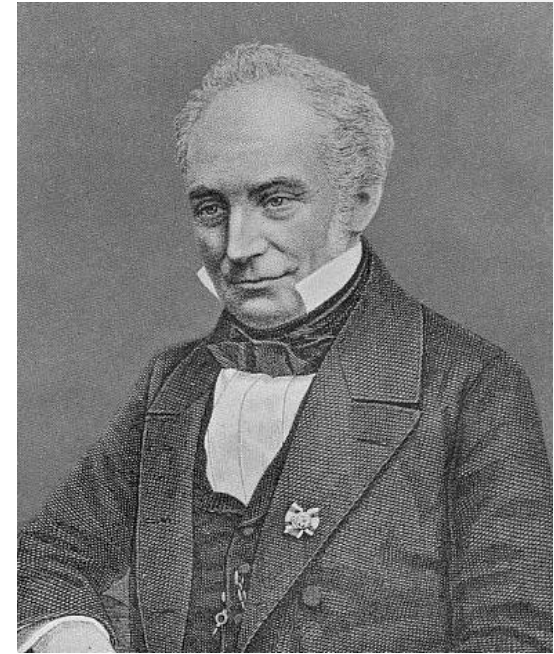
Who got us into this mess?



Sir William Jones (1746-1794)



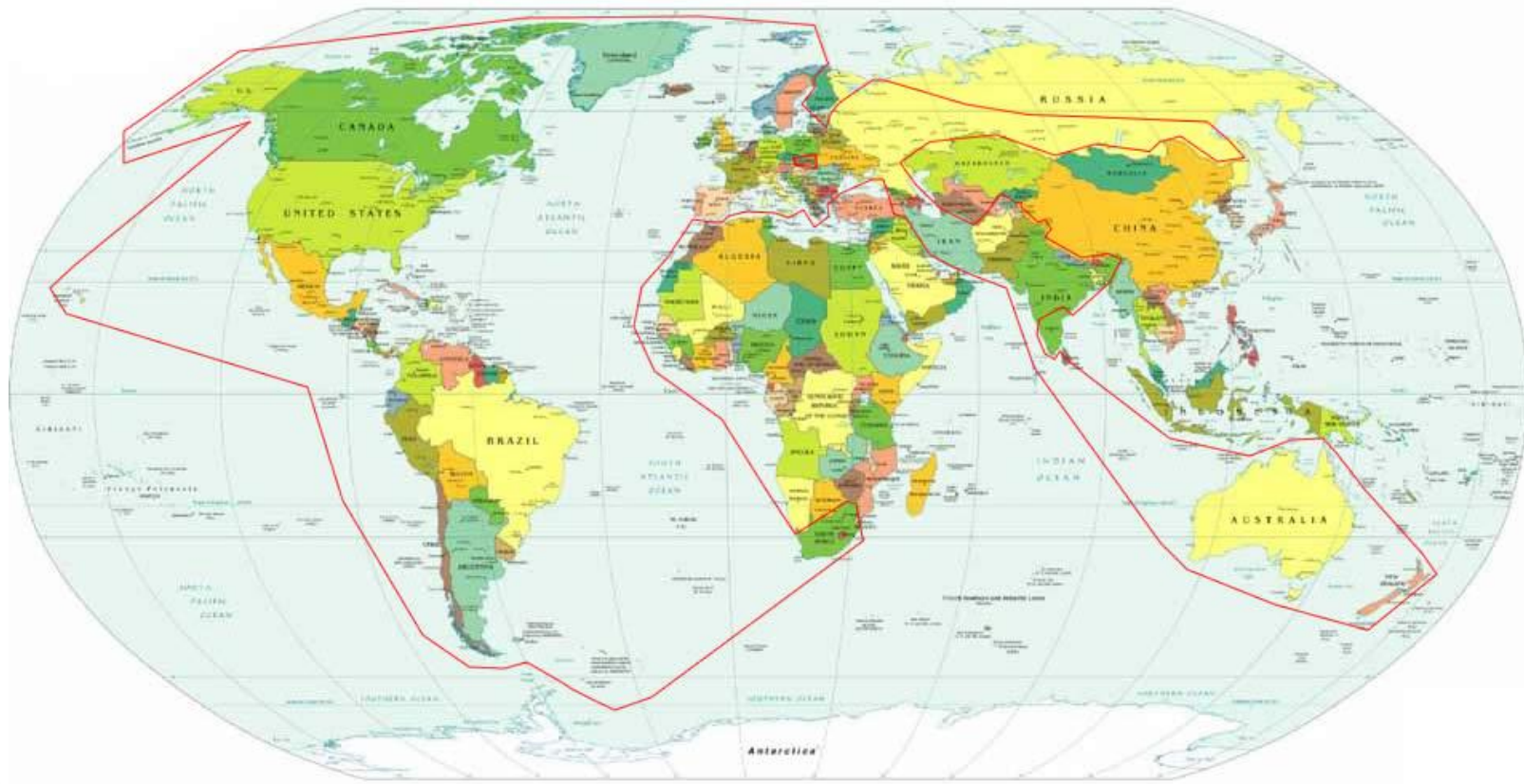
Thomas Young (1773-1829)



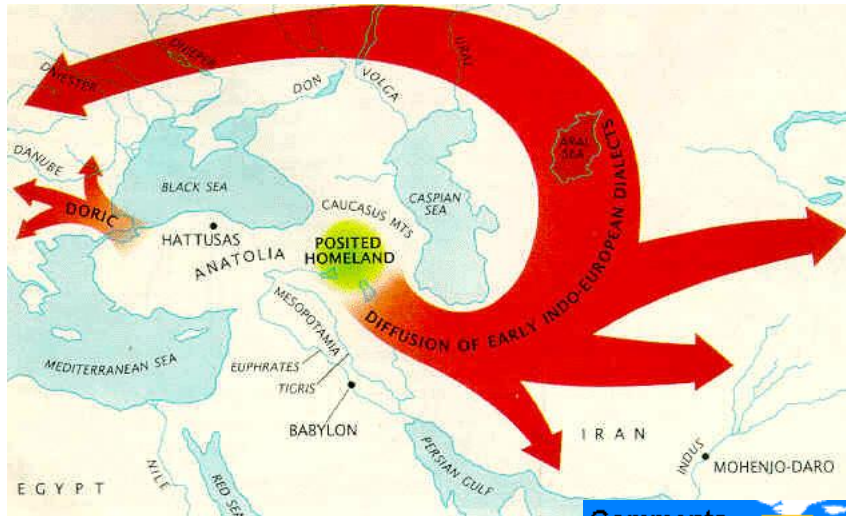
Franz Bopp (1791-1867)

“The Sanscrit language, whatever be its antiquity, is of a wonderful structure; more perfect than the Greek, more copious than the Latin, and more exquisitely refined than either, yet bearing to both of them a stronger affinity, both in the roots of verbs and the forms of grammar, than could possibly have been produced by accident; so strong indeed, that no philologer could examine them all three, without believing them to have sprung from some common source, which, perhaps, no longer exists; there is a similar reason, though not quite so forcible, for supposing that both the Gothic and the Celtic, though blended with a very different idiom, had the same origin with the Sanscrit; and the old Persian might be added to the same family.”—Sir William Jones, 3rd Discourse before the Asiatic Society, delivered 1788

Where are PIE languages spoken?



How did PIE spread?



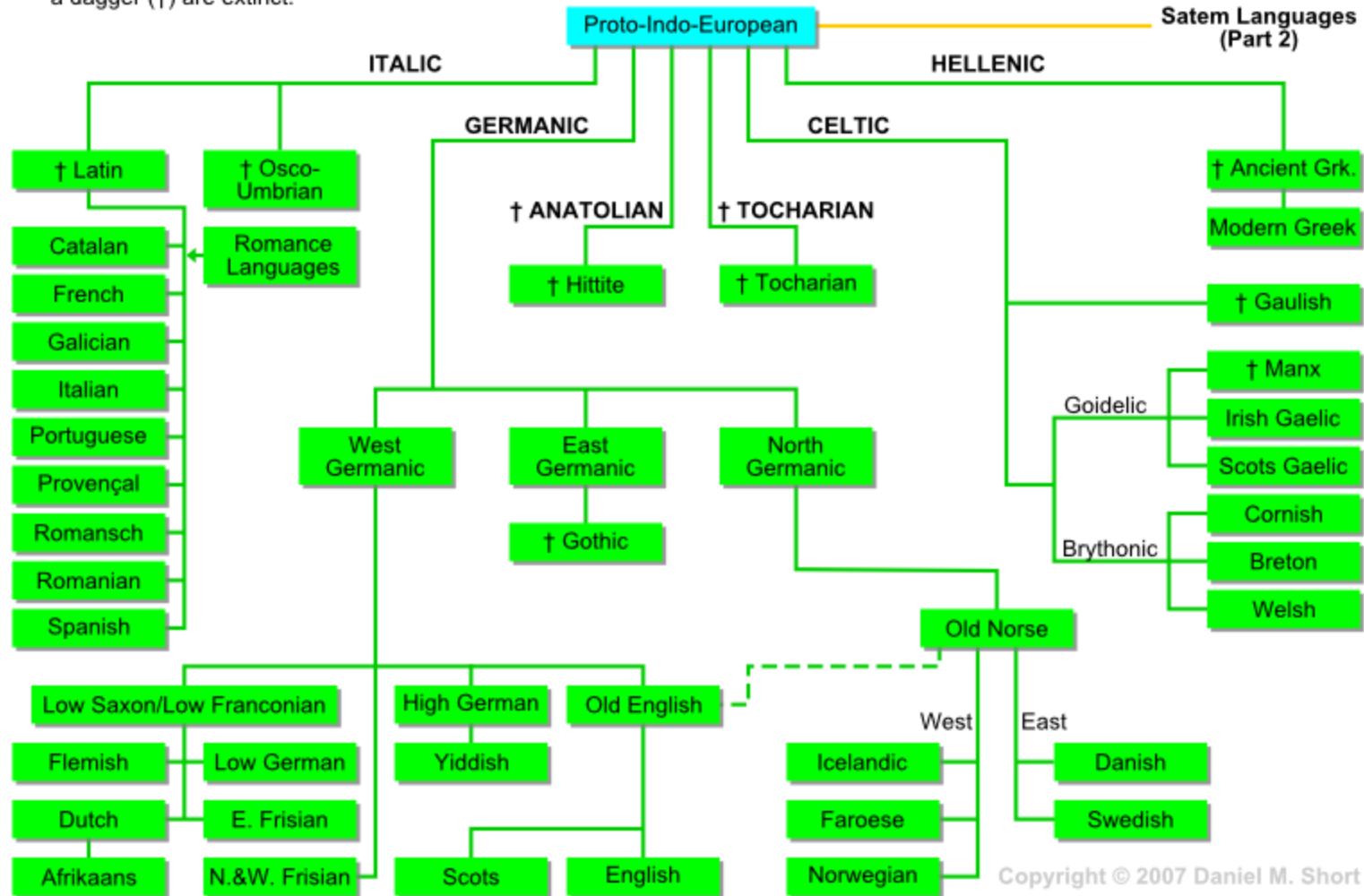
Two Main Branches of PIE: Centum and Satem



Indo-European Languages

Part 1: Centum Languages

Languages marked with a dagger (†) are extinct.



Indo-European Languages

Part 2: Satem Languages

Languages marked with a dagger (†) are extinct.

Centum Languages
(Part 1)

Proto-Indo-European

SLAVIC

ARMENIAN

INDO-IRANIAN

BALTIC

ALBANIAN

Slavic

Baltic

Albanian

Armenian

South Slavic

West Slavic

East Slavic

† Old Prussian

Gheg

Tosk

Bosnian

Bulgarian

Croatian

Macedonian

Serbian

Slovenian

† Old Church Slavonic

Czech

Polish

Slovak

Sorbian

Belarusian

Russian

Ukrainian

Indo-Iranian

DARDIC

INDIC

IRANIAN

† Sanskrit

Kashmiri and Dardic Languages

Assamese

Bengali

Gujarati

Hindi

Marathi

Nepali

Punjabi

Romany

Sindhi

Singhalese

Urdu

† Old Persian

Persian

† Avestan

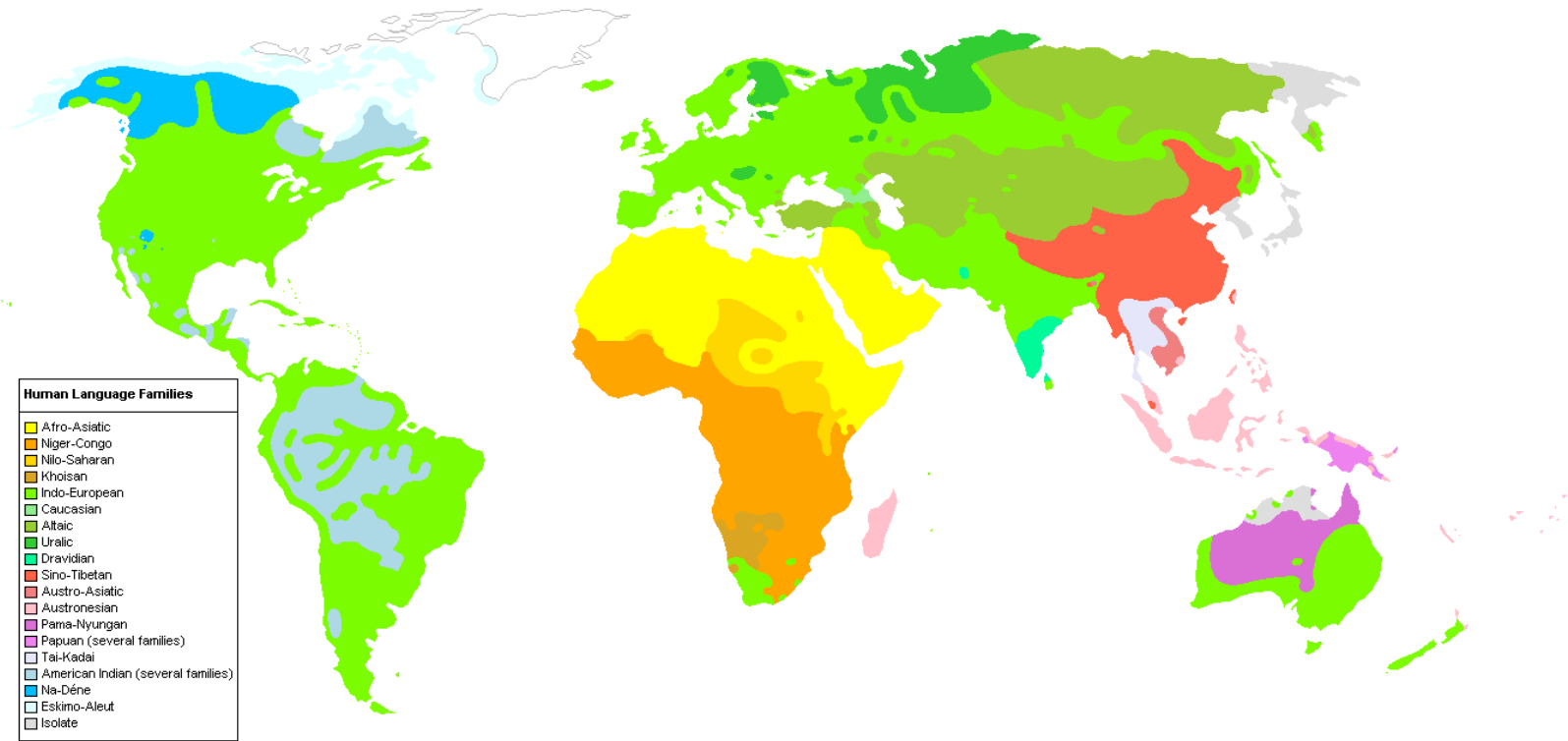
† Sogdian

Baluchi

Kurdish

Pashto

Nostratic Hypothesis



The Babel Story....



The phrase "Tower of Babel" does not appear in the Hebrew Bible; it is always, "the city and its tower" (- -) or just "the city" (

See Coogan's Brief Introduction to the Old Testament (Oxford, 2009)

- Folkloric etiology of diversity of language development?
- Word 'Babel' doesn't appear in early versions of Bible (added in Old English?)
- Possibly Akkadian Bāb-ilim, 'gate of the god'
- Genesis 11: dated to 950 BCE—7th C BCE

And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

² And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

³ And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

⁴ And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

⁵ And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

⁶ And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

⁷ Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

⁹ Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

Recent work on the common vocabulary...

- Tentative identification of ‘ultraconserved words’: [Pagel et al](#), *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 110.21: 8471-76.
- Includes *mother, not, to hear, man, to flow, ashes, worm*
- Some linguists think these word roots may be 15,000 years old
- Based on the [Swadesh List](#) of 206 basic vocabulary words that survive as cognates across eight languages

RECONSTRUCTED P.I.E. WORDS

- *abel 'apple' or 'fruit'
- *es- 'is'
- *mus- 'mouse'
- *newo- 'new'
- *odos- 'odor'
- *sed- 'sit'
- *sneigwh- 'snow'
- *ster- 'star'
- *swel- 'to eat, swallow'
- *yer- 'year'

COGNATES are a major characteristic of Indo-European languages



Germanic Days of the Week

<u>Dutch:</u>	<u>English:</u>	<u>Old English:</u>	<u>German:</u>	<u>Norwegian:</u>
Maandag	Monday	Monandæg	Montag	Mandag
Dinsdag	Tuesday	Tiwesdæg	Dienstag	Tirsdag
Woensdag	Wednesday	Wodnesdæg	Mittwoch	Onsdag
Donderdag	Thursday	Thursdæg	Donnerstag	Torsdag
Vrijdag	Friday	Frigedæg	Freitag	Fredag
Zaterdag	Saturday	Sæterndæg	Samstag	Lórdag
Zondag	Sunday	Sunnandæg	Sonntag	Sóndag

Romance Days of the Week

<u>Latin:</u>	<u>Italian:</u>	<u>Romanian:</u>	<u>Spanish:</u>	<u>French:</u>
Dies lunae	Lunedì	Luni	Lunes	Lundi
Dies Martis	Martedì	Mărți	Martes	Mardi
Dies Mercurii	Mercoledì	Miercuri	Miercoles	Mercredi
Dies Jovis	Giovedì	Joi	Jeuves	Jeudi
Dies Veneris	Venerdì	Vineri	Viernes	Vendredi
Dies Saturni / Dominica	Sabato Domenica	Sâmbătă Duminică	Sabado Domingo	Samedi Dimanche



Finnish Days of the Week

- maanantai
- tiistai
- keskiviikko
- torstai
- perjantai
- lauantai
- sunnuntai

Germanic Months of the Year

<u>Dutch:</u>	<u>English:</u>	<u>Old English:</u>	<u>German:</u>	<u>Norwegian:</u>
Januari	January	-----	Januar	Januar
Februari	February	-----	Februar	Februar
Maart	March	-----	März	Mars
April	April	-----	April	April
Mei	May	-----	Mai	Mai
Juni	June	-----	Juni	Juni
Juli	July	-----	Juli	Juli
Augustus	August	-----	August	August
September	September	-----	September	September
Oktober	October	-----	Oktober	Oktober
November	November	-----	November	November
December	December	-----	Dezember	Desember

Indo-Iranian Months of the Year

<u>Hindi:</u>	<u>Pashto:</u>	<u>Persian/Farsi:</u>	<u>Urdu:</u>
Janvarī	Māh	Zhanviye	Janvari
Farvarī	Pāganr	Fevriye	Farvari
Mārc	Chetar	Mars	Mārc
Aprail	Baisāk	Avril	Aprēl
Maī	Jet	Meh	Mā'ī
Jūn	Hār	Zhoan	Jūn
Julāī	Pashakal	Zhuiye	Julā'ī
Agast	Bādro	Aot	Agast
Sitambar	Asū	Septambr	Sitambar
Aktūbar	Kātak	Oktobr	Aktūbar
Navambar	Magar	Novambr	Navambar
Disambar	Po(h)	Desambr	Disambar

Finnish Months of the Year

Tammikuu (heart-moon)

Helmikuu (pearl-moon)

Maaliskuu (earth-moon)

Huhtikuu (green wood-moon)

Toukokuu (fieldwork moon)

Kesäkuu (fallow moon or summer moon)

Heinäkuu (hay moon)

Elokuu (harvest moon)

Syyskuu (autumn moon)

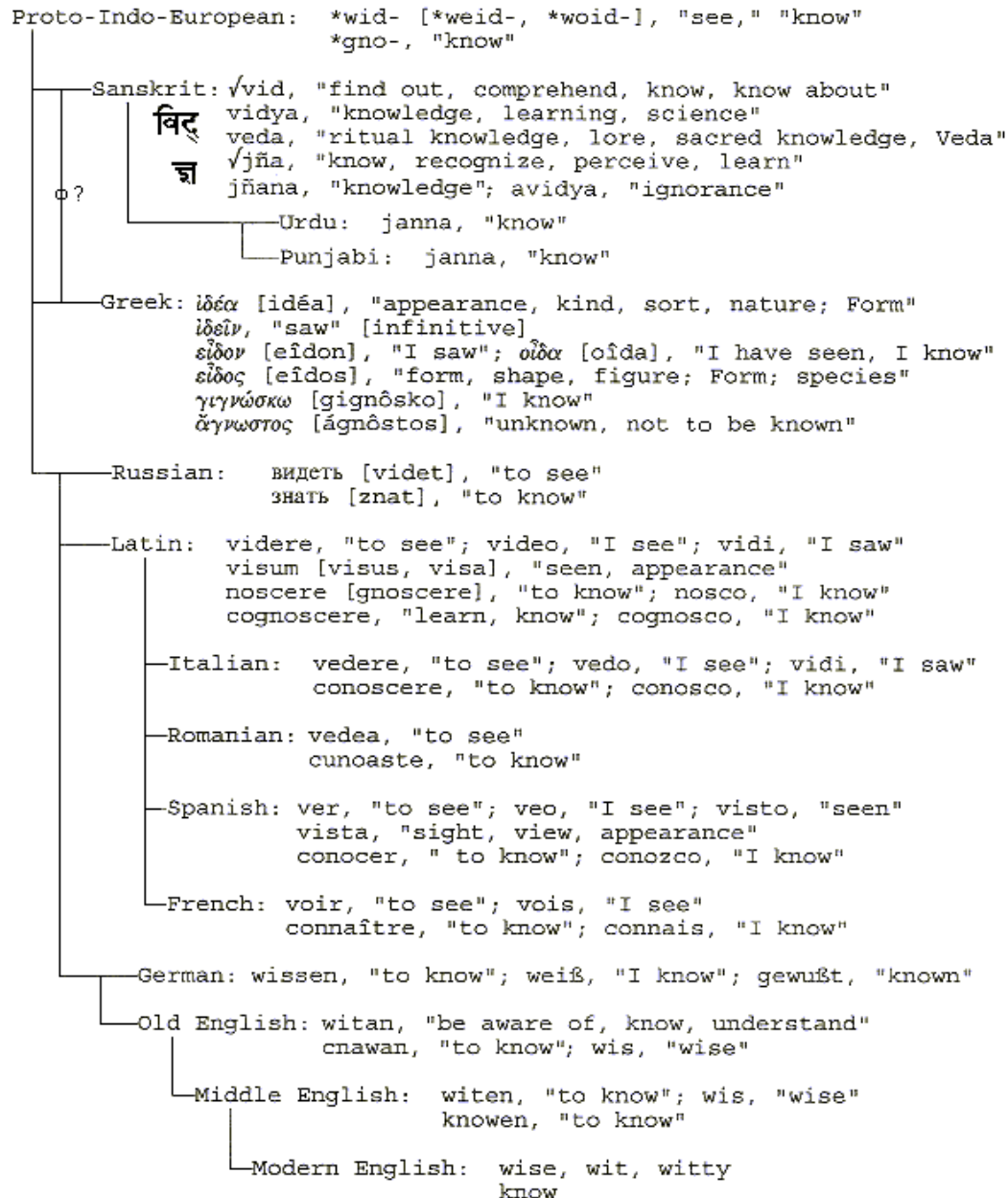
Lokakuu (slush moon)

Marraskuu (death moon)

Joulukuu or Talvikuu (Christmas moon or winter moon)

Romance Cardinal Numbers

<u>Latin:</u>	<u>Romanian:</u>	<u>Italian:</u>	<u>Spanish:</u>	<u>French:</u>	<u>Portuguese:</u>
Nihil	Zero	Zero	Cero	Zéro	Zero/Cipher
Unus	Unu/Una	Uno	Uno	Un/une	Um
Duo	Doi/Două	Due	Dos	Deux	Dois
Tres	Trei	Tre	Tres	Trois	Tres
Quattour	Patru	Quattro	Cuatro	Quatre	Quatro
Quinque	Cinci	Cinque	Cinco	Cinq	Cinco
Sex	Şase	Sei	Sies	Six	Seis
Septum	Şapte	Sette	Siete	Sept	Sete
Octum	Opt	Otto	Ocho	Huit	Oito
Novem	Nouă	Nove	Nueve	Neuf	Nove
Decem	Zece	Dieci	Diez	Dix	Dez
Centum	O sută	Cento	Ciento	Cent	Cento
Mille	I mie	Mille	Mil	Mille	Milhar



Morphological Characteristics of PIE (Algeo 67-69)

- **Inflections** indicate case, number, tense & other grammatical signals
- **Word order** was most likely **object-verb**; we don't know why Germanic and many other IE descendants shifted to verb-object order